THE SPOKE



South East Region Infection Prevention and Control Hub Newsletter

January 2025

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South East IPAC Hub Update

Happy New Year! January is the perfect time to reflect, reset, and plan ahead. As we kick off this new year, it's an ideal opportunity to focus on setting SMART goals-Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound - that will help you strengthen your Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) programs.

Whether you're looking to refine your surveillance strategies, enhance staff training, or implement new infection control methodologies, our team is here to support you every step of the way. Let's work together to identify actionable objectives that will drive meaningful improvements throughout the year.

Here's to a successful and goal-oriented 2025!

Education & Events

February

- Feb 4th: IPAC EO Novice Infection Control Network
- Feb 11th: PHO C. auris
- Feb 25th: IPAC Canada Infection Prevention and Control Surveillance Workshop for Long Term Care

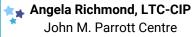
March

- Mar 4th: IPAC Canada Novice Infection Control Network
- Mar 12th: PHO IPAC **Environmental Cleaning Community of Practice**
- Mar 19th: IPAC Canada Eastern **Ontario Chapter meeting**

April

 Apr 1st: SAVE THE DATE C. auris - The Yeast in the Beast





Victoria Gibson, LTC-CIP Stirling Manor

Payton Hunt, LTC-CIP Fairmount Home

ipac pci

Infection Prevention and Control Surveillance Workshop for Long Term Care

Tuesday February 25, 2025

Get ready for an engaging, hands-on experience in IPAC Canada's 3-hour virtual workshop on surveillance in LTC! Through interactive exercises, you'll work with surveillance databases and real-world scenarios to apply key concepts in real time. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, collaborate, and elevate your surveillance expertise! This session is not a pre-requisite for our April Surveillance Skills Workshop but will be an asset for those who attend. Remember, keep an eye out for IPUs that will help with CIC/LTC-CIP recertification! Click here to read the full description,

Registration Deadline: Feb 21, 2025

learn more and register!



Candida auris is <u>reportable</u> to Public Health.

Public Health Ontario Presentation - Candida auris: A New Disease of Public Health Significance (DOPHS): Management of this Highly-Transmission Fungal Pathogen

Tuesday, February 11, 2025 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Register here.







BUG WATCH

Norovirus



What is Norovirus?

- Norovirus is a **highly** contagious virus that causes gastroenteritis, otherwise known as inflammation of a person's gastrointestinal system
- It is a leading cause of vomiting, diarrhea and foodborne illness
- Norovirus is often mistaken for "stomach flu" or "stomach bug" but it is not related to influenza (the flu)

How is Norovirus spread?

Typically spread through the fecal-oral route:

- Direct contact with someone infected
- Consuming food or drinks contaminated with the virus
- Indirect contact with surfaces of items contaminated with the virus and then touching mouth, nose or eyes

Norovirus Symptoms

- The incubation period of norovirus is 12-48 hours after exposure
- Symptoms normally appear very suddenly

Common symptoms include:

Additional symptoms can include:

- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Nausea
- Stomach pain
- Fever
- Headache
- Body aches

How long can symptoms last?

- Symptoms typically last 1 to 3 days
- Individuals can still be contagious for several days after symptom resolution

How to PREVENT Norovirus



Hand Hygiene

· Promote hand washing for staff, residents & visitors

Education and Awareness

 Educate staff, residents and visitors about importance of adherence to IPAC practices (hand hygiene, cleaning/disinfection, PPE use)

Environmental Cleaning



- Check for norovirus kill claim on products
- Focus on high-touch surfaces
- Dedicate shared equipment where possible
- Review cleaning/disinfection program



Additional Precautions

- Implement contact precautions for confirmed or suspected cases
- Consider droplet & contact precautions as the use of eye protection and a mask can eliminate unpredictable exposure to splashes or sprays of stool and/or vomit

Outbreak Preparedness & Management



PHU and IPAC Hub can support with outbreak management!

- Understand outbreak definitions
- · Report outbreak to public health
- Ensure sufficient PPE supply
- Increased surveillance for case monitoring Stay home when sick!
- · Identify potential visitor restrictions · Review staff return to work policy
- · Ensure supply of enteric testing kits





SPOTLIGHT



PERTH COMMMUNITY CARE



IPAC Lead: Kendra Armstrong, LTC-CIP



We love to hear your good news!

Get a shout out in our 'Congratulations Corner' or be featured in our 'IPAC Spotlight'! To share your IPAC successes and projects you are working on to support or enhance your IPAC Programs, please email: <u>SEhubintake@kingstonhsc.ca</u>

Perth Community Care is a 121-bed longterm care home located in Perth Ontario. Their IPAC Lead Kendra has shown great initiative by tackling an Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA) for a renovation project that took place in the facility in November 2024. The home renovations in a dish room that required removing old and installing new fixtures and removing drywall. Kendra reviewed the work plan and followed best practice guidance and CSA standards. She assessed determined the preventive project and measures that were necessary. She ensured up appropriate inspections communicated with the contractor and their teams. This exceptional work contributed to the safety of the residents and staff at this home.

Kendra shared her experience with other IPAC leads at the LGL SE IPAC Hub Community of Practice meeting. Kendra is willing to share her presentation upon request. We appreciate hearing about her learnings.

Kudos to Kendra and the team at Perth Community Care!

Contact the Hub: SEHubIntake@kingstonhsc.ca



Service requests

Our team is available for a variety of services, including on-site visits, staff education, outbreak management, IPAC policy review, IPAC resource development and other supports to help enhance your IPAC program.



IPAC-related questions

Our Hub IPAC practitioners are happy to provide advice on your IPAC-related questions and direct you to best practice resources. There are also numerous resources and presentations available on our

website.



We want your feedback!

We value our partner suggestions and feedback. If the Hub has provided your organization with services, please take a moment to complete our <u>feedback survey</u> to help us improve our program.