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## South East IPAC Hub Update

With the arrival of Fall, plans for preparedness are of the utmost importance due to the increase of seasonal respiratory illnesses. Fall preparedness is a proactive measure that can help guide policies, procedures, and response planning. If you have not had a onsite visit to support your fall preparedness and would like to schedule one, please contact [SEhubintake@kingstonhsc.ca](mailto:SEhubintake@kingstonhsc.ca) or reach out directly to your IPAC Hub ICP.

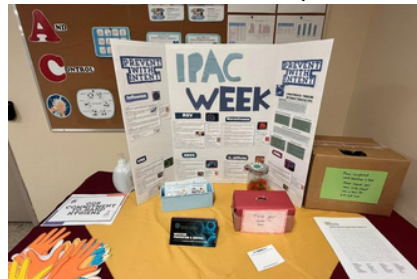
**Our team is growing!** We are happy to welcome Aneka Nithianandan to our IPAC Hub team. Aneka has LTC experience and is actively working towards obtaining her Masters degree and CIC certification. We look forward to her positive impact in the LGL, KFL&A and HPE regions.

## Happy National IPAC Week! "Prevent with Intent"

October 14 -18, 2024

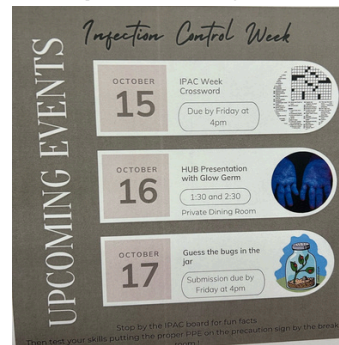
A time to celebrate  
IPAC Professionals  
and their important  
work!

### John M. Parrott Centre, KFL&A



IPAC information boards, guess the number of bugs, IPAC crosswords, hand hygiene pledge and more!

### Maple View Lodge, LGL



Poster advertising various IPAC week events at the home.

### Stirling Manor, HPE



IPAC Loot bags given out to all staff throughout the week!



Thank you to the facilities who submitted photos of their IPAC week events and initiatives!

## Congratulations Corner

### Emma Brookes

Village Green LTC  
LTC-CIP, CIC

### Ann McFeeters

Trillium Care  
LTC-CIP

## UPCOMING EDUCATION!

Queen's University IPAC Professional Development Course - Winter 2025  
[Register Here!](#)

## Calling all Novice Infection Control Professionals!

Are you a new Infection Control Professional with less than 3 years experience? If so, you are invited to join a [new group](#) the **Novice Infection Control Network!** This is a group where you can connect and learn with fellow IPAC novices from all settings! Please join our virtual meeting on **Tuesday November 5 1:30-2:30pm!**

If you would like to join, please email: [emily.moslinger@kingstonhsc.ca](mailto:emily.moslinger@kingstonhsc.ca) for additional details.

## We love to hear your good news!

Get a shout out in our 'Congratulations Corner' or 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: [SEhubintake@kingstonhsc.ca](mailto:SEhubintake@kingstonhsc.ca)

# BUG WATCH:

## Carbapenemase-Producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE)



### Preparedness

- Complete [PHO's Resident Admission, Discharge, and Transfer Consideration Checklist](#)
- Review [PHO's CPE Transmission Risk Factors in LTCH](#)

### Key Preventative Measures

- Practice Four Moments for Hand Hygiene
- Follow 'Contact' precautions based on setting
- Do not discard IV or body fluids down sinks, and perform enhanced sink and drain cleaning (see *How is CPE spread?* for more details)
- Dedicated washroom/commode and re-usable equipment
- Increased cleaning and disinfection
- Implement PHO's [ARO risk factor-based screening for new/ re-admissions](#)

### Colonization versus Infection



Bacteria present on body with **no** signs or symptoms



Bacteria present and causing signs and symptoms

### CPE is reportable to local Public Health Unit

### For More Information

Ministry of Health - [Appendix 1: Case Definitions and Disease: CPE](#)

Public Health Ontario Webinar: [CPE Resources for Long-Term Care Homes](#)



### What is Carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae*?

- Carbapenems are a class of antibiotics that are used to treat severe bacterial infections
- Carbapenemases are enzymes that inactivate carbapenems (e.g., KPC, NDM, OXA, VIM)
- *Enterobacteriaceae* are a group of gram-negative bacteria found primarily in the lower gastrointestinal tract, such as *E.coli* and *Klebsiella* species, which can acquire the ability to produce carbapenemases.

### Why is CPE a concern?

- CPE infections are difficult to treat due to their ability to inactivate many types of antibiotics
- Mortality in individuals with CPE bloodstream infections may be as high as 50%
- CPE can transfer its resistance to other bacteria and spread outside of the gut causing serious infections
- Individuals can remain colonized for months to years

### How is CPE spread?

Direct or indirect contact via:

- Poor hand hygiene
- Inadequate cleaning/disinfecting of shared equipment or spaces if unable to dedicate
- Particular concern with sharing of washrooms

### Pay special attention to washroom tubs, showers, sinks and drains!

- CPE can survive in the environment and can be difficult to get rid of once established
- These organisms can survive in the biofilm of sink drains
- Pay extra attention to sink and shower drain cleaning!
  - Use 'enhanced' cleaning and ensure environmental product selection has compatible 'kill claim' and recommended contact time is followed

### Who should be screened for CPE?

- Individual that spent time in a healthcare facility within the previous 12 months
- Direct transfer from another healthcare facility
- Transfer from a healthcare facility unit with CPE outbreak
- Individual with prior history of colonization or infection with CPE or flagged as high-risk exposure
- Individual identified belonging to a high-risk group by IPAC or PHO/PHU (e.g., high community rates, etc.)

# IPAC SPOTLIGHT

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



*Fairmount  
Home*

IPAC Lead:  
Payton Hunt

Fairmount Home is a 128-bed Long-Term Care Home located in Glenburnie, Ontario that serves the Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington region. The home's commitment to providing high-quality care is reflected in their IPAC Program led by Payton Hunt, RN, who stepped in to the role of Assistant Director of Care and IPAC Lead in Spring 2023.

In early 2024, Fairmount Home received notification of a new admission positive for a Carbapenemase-Producing Organism (CPO). This situation warranted a review of IPAC best practice and preventative measures to implement within the home to continue to ensure safety and well-being of all residents, staff and visitors.

In response, Payton collaborated closely with various departments within the home including Housekeeping/Environmental Services as CPO requires enhanced cleaning and disinfecting of sinks, drains, and washrooms. Payton enlisted support from the SE IPAC Hub Team to review and update the home's antibiotic-resistant organism (ARO) policy to include CPO management and create additional relevant policies and procedures which included cleaning and disinfection, new surveillance measures and staff education.

Congratulations to Payton and Fairmount Home for the development and implementation of new CPO IPAC best practices to prevent CPO transmission!

**Contact the Hub: [SEHubIntake@kingstonhsc.ca](mailto: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 [feedback survey](#) to help us improve our program.