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IPAC

South East Region Infection Prevention and Control Hub Newsletter

Quarter 1 - June 2021

#### In this issue

- Program Update
- Outbreak Management Support
- Communities of Practice
- Partnerships with **MCCSS**
- IPAC Education Session
- Rapid Antigen Testing Program
- Donning & Doffing PPE Education

## **Program Update**

The SE IPAC Hub team has been working hard over this past quarter to deliver on-site coaching and mentoring on IPAC practices to many different congregate living settings. Some highlights are outlined below:



REQUESTS



"The SE IPAC Hub team was able to reiterate what we were doing well, areas for improvement but also provide some on-site refreshers around PPE usage, hand hygiene, etc."

- Manager, Supportive Housing

# **Outbreak Management Support**

The SE IPAC Hub team has been requested to assist facilities during COVID-19 outbreaks. The team works with the facility and the local Public Health Unit to ensure timely on-site IPAC support. Some examples include:

- On-site PPE donning and doffing staff huddles
- Timely IPAC knowledge transfer (i.e., review cleaning & disinfection practices, cohorting ideas, etc.)
- Foster successful outbreak management team meetings •
- Follow up recommendations in a report and debrief
- De-escalation and post-outbreak IPAC support

If you need support or assistance with your home's outbreak preparedness and outbreak management plan, please contact us.



On-site Donning & Doffing Education

" The SE IPAC Hub team was able to visit the home and provide invaluable insights and direction to make a very trying situation more manageable. - Manager, Supportive Housing



Virtual Meetings have enabled participation from across the region.

# **Communities of Practice**

Virtual meetings are held with focused groups to share resources and have open collaboration. Two well established groups are the Home & Community Care and the Shelters. If you would like to join our mailing list, please contact us.

Home & Community Care CoP: Monthly - next meeting is July 22 @ 12pm

Shelters CoP: Monthly - next meeting is July 15 @ 12pm

#### **Upcoming Sessions**

- COVID-19 Vaccine Education Resources July 2021. Resources are available <u>here</u>.
- In-service Donning & Doffing PPE Practices virtual or on-site if requested

#### **Previous Sessions**

- Vaccine Hesitancy Presentation Presentation slides are available here.
- **IPAC Education Session #1 Outbreak Management for Long-Term Care & Retirement** Homes - May 28, 2021. Presentation slides are available here.



# **Partnerships with MCCSS**

The Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS) provides a range of services for individuals with developmental disabilities and their families. MCCSS oversees close to 200 congregate living facilities within the geographic region supported by the SE IPAC Hub.

The mandate of the SE IPAC Hub is to increase capacity and provide IPAC expertise and support to congregate facilities including those under MCCSS. The SE IPAC Hub has been working to support these homes through partnership and collaboration with MCCSS and MCCSS-funded IPAC lead agencies. In addition, Alastair Lamb, CEO at Ongwanada, now sits on the SE IPAC Hub Steering committee to further support our collaborative efforts.

The SE IPAC Hub Coordinators and MCCSS IPAC leads will be reaching out to set up introductory visits. Facilities can contact MCCSS leads or the IPAC Hub to request assistance and/or a visit.

The current MCCSS leads are:

- Jean Thompson, Jackie Hartin Lanark, Leeds & Grenville
- Susan Miles Hastings & Prince Edward
- Jocelyn Fleet KFL&A

## **IPAC Education Session**

On May 28, 2021, the SE IPAC Hub offered its first Infection Prevention and Control Education Session. This session focused on outbreak preparedness and management of respiratory and gastroenteritis outbreaks. The participants in this education session included representatives from retirement and long-term care homes across the three regions. The presentation slides are available <u>here</u>.

We are looking to offer more IPAC Education Sessions in the future. Please <u>contact us</u> if there are any topics that you would like to see at one of our future sessions.

# **Rapid Antigen Testing Program**



IPAC education and training provided on-site.

During April and May, rapid antigen testing was a hot topic in many congregate care settings as the ministry broadened accessibility of the kits for various settings. The SE IPAC Hub assisted settings by providing education prior to implementation and on-site support to put the program in place. The team worked to ensure IPAC considerations were incorporated into plans for the safety of both those performing the tests and those being tested.

If you need assistance with IPAC practices related to your program, please contact us.

#### **Donning & Doffing PPE Education**

Educational support for donning and doffing PPE has been developed by the SE IPAC Hub. To view our education videos on YouTube, please <u>click here</u>.

Please <u>contact us</u> if you would like an on-site or virtual IPAC education session (donning & doffing PPE, case scenarios, etc.).

"With various scenarios to accommodate staff in every department, I would highly recommend the donning and doffing education to all homes. The informal, relaxed setting and friendliness of the IPAC coordinators allowed the staff to increase their confidence levels with regards to PPE and isolation scenarios." - Director of Nursing, LTCH

# **Contact Information**

#### **Intake Request**

To submit an intake request or urgent request for service, <u>click here</u>.

#### **General Contact**

Email us with any questions at <u>SEHubIntake@KingstonHSC.ca</u>.

#### Feedback

We value our partner suggestions and feedback. If the SE IPAC Hub has provided your organization with services please take a minute to complete our feedback survey to help us improve our program! To provide feedback, <u>click here</u>.