

CSIC Network News

Central South Infection Control Network • NETWORK NEWS

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SARS Commission Releases Final Report

In June 2003, the Ontario Government created an independent commission to investigate the introduction and spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). The Honourable Mr. Justice Archie Campbell of the Ontario Superior Court of Justice was appointed Commissioner.

The first interim report, *SARS and Public Health in Ontario*, focused on public health renewal. The commission set out 21 principles for reforming the shortcomings of the public health system as demonstrated by SARS. The second interim report, *SARS and Public Health Legislation*, focused on public health legislation. In the final report, many of the recommendations address health care worker safety issues. There are three

recommendations specific to Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs).

- That RICNs have as integral members, experts in occupational Medicine, occupational hygiene, and representatives from the Ministry of Labour.
- That members of RICNs be fully educated in the requirements of the Occupational Health & Safety Act.
- That RICNs consult with the Ministry of Labour, workplace parties and worker safety experts when dealing with worker safety issues.

All SARS Commission reports can be accessed at www.sarscommission.ca

Community Associated Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (CA-MRSA)

In the past 18 months, CA-MRSA has started to appear throughout Ontario with increasing frequency. CA-MRSA strains are different from hospital-acquired strains. They occur in adults and children without any exposure to hospitals or healthcare. While they are sometimes associated with jails, intravenous drug use, and living on the street, they also occur without these risk factors. Some cases appear to be associated with travel to areas of the U.S. where community acquired MRSA is common (e.g. Texas and southern California). Outbreaks have also been reported in sports teams with frequent skin to skin contact such as wrestling and football. Most infections with community acquired MRSA are skin infections. Typically the infection begins as a small cellulitis with a central necrotic area – people may think that they have a spider bite. By the time that patients are seen the infection is often a large abscess which may need to be drained.

In some areas like Victoria BC, the incidence of CA-MRSA increased rapidly after the initial reports. While we are not sure how quickly CA-MRSA will appear in

Ontario, healthcare providers should be aware of the potential.*

For further information see the September/October 2006 issue of *Canadian Journal of Infectious Disease Medical Microbiology* for a supplement titled “Guidelines for the prevention and management of community-associated methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus: a perspective for Canadian healthcare practitioners”. You may access a copy of this document through your RICN office or on-line at http://www.pulsus.com/infdis/17_SC/Pdf/mrsa_ed.pdf

**A special thank you to the Toronto Invasive Bacterial Disease Network for sharing this article.

**Fact sheets available on request from the CSICN.

CA-MRSA in the Community
CA-MRSA for Family Physicians





Got a Bug?

Have an infection control question that's bugging you? Send it to us and we'll try to answer it for you. Selected questions may be chosen for publication in future newsletters.

Q. When do I use the Enhanced Respiratory and Contact Precautions.

A. This category should not be used anymore. This category of precautions stopped completely with the PIDAC Preventing Febrile Respiratory Illnesses document published on September 2005 and most recently revised August 2006 which replaced: Preventing Respiratory Illnesses; Protecting Patient and Staff. Infection Control and Surveillance Standards for FRI in Non- Outbreak Conditions in Acute Care Hospitals, December 2003. Preventing Respiratory Illnesses; Protecting Patients and Staff in non-Acute Care Institutions. Infection Control and Surveillance Standards for FRI in Non-Outbreak Conditions, March 2004. Preventing Respiratory Illnesses in Community Settings. Guidelines for Infection Control and Surveillance for FRI in Community Settings in Non-Outbreak Conditions, March 2004. Standards for all Ontario Health Care Facilities/Settings for High-Risk Respiratory Procedures under Non-Outbreak Conditions, April 2004. This can be found at http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/best_prac/bp_fri_080406.pdf

Q. Can I view a videoconference from my desktop computer?

A. Archived videoconferences and select live presentations provided by the Ontario Telehealth Network (OTN- formerly North Network) may be accessed from your desktop computer. First, ensure you have a media player installed on your computer. If one is not installed, contact your IT support for assistance. Once installed, log onto the OTN website (www.northnetwork.com). Under the News & Events heading select Webcasting Centre. From the Webcasting Centre select either archived or live events. Available events will be listed, simply select the presentation you wish to view. *Note: Live presentations are for viewing only, a questions period is not available through this method.

Guidelines for Animal Visitation in Health Care Facilities



The Ontario Veterinary College in promotion of their new Centre for Public Health and Zoonoses, the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Nursing Alumnae Association from the Royal Victoria Hospital School of Nursing Training sponsored a joint working session held Tuesday January 9, 2007 at the Toronto Public Health Lab.

A group of participants from the veterinary, animal-assisted activity and therapy, infection prevention and control and government sectors met to discuss guidelines for animals visiting healthcare facilities.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide explicit and evidence-based guidelines (where research exists) and expert opinion where expertise does not exist, to reduce the risk of infectious disease transmission between animals and the people they visit in healthcare facilities. The working group first heard a series of presentations on a variety of topics that related to animals and the benefit that they provide patients in a healthcare setting, the

principles in temperament testing and the potential infection risks of animals visiting healthcare facilities. Plenary discussions which followed focused on the proposed draft guidelines with resultant suggestions and edits to the document.

The organizer of the meeting, Dr. Sandi Lefebvre from the Ontario Veterinary College will send out a second draft to group members for further comment with future plans for wide distribution and publication of the final document.

Copies of the presentations and reference materials can be borrowed from the CSICN library.

Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much the larger and better in every way.
John Muir

CIC Study Group



The **CIC study group** continues to meet every month with members committed to becoming certified in their area of specialty. The meetings are a combination of presentations, group discussion and practice questions from the Certification Study Guide. The option of teleconferencing in to the session made it easier for distant members to attend the meeting, which covered the topics of surveillance, outbreak management and epidemiology. A big Thank You to Michelle Baird who gave a great overview of epidemiology and outbreak management. The next meeting of the CIC study group on February 8, 2007 and will be held at two locations: St Joseph's (Mountain Site) MIS conference room H103 from 12:30-14:30 and teleconference provided for the Niagara Region participants from the Network offices.

If anyone is interested in joining this group, please contact Oksana Zaporzan at (905) 681-4916 or by email at zaporzan@hhsc.ca.

Education Subcommittee

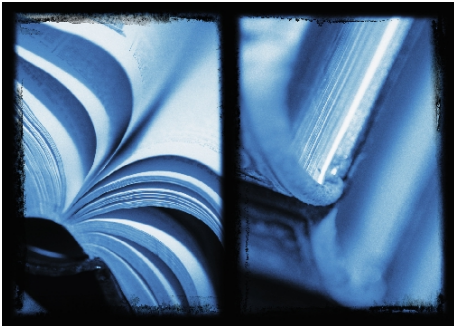
The inaugural meeting of the Education Subcommittee took place at CSICN office on December 12, 2006. Thank you to all who volunteered to become a member of this group. The mandate of this subcommittee is to develop, promote and evaluate infection prevention and control education initiatives while meeting the provincial and regional objectives to support best practices. At our next meeting we plan to finalize our terms of reference and discuss priority education projects.

The Surveillance Working Group call for membership has now closed.

*Promoting Excellence
in Infection
Prevention & Control...
It's in Our Hands!*

CSICN Infection Control Resource Centre

The CSICN Reference Library continues to grow! We have a variety of texts, journals, guidelines, toolkits and DVDs/videos available for loan. Here are some of our currently stocked items:



TOOLKITS

ESBL
 Strategies for Pandemics and Disasters
 Surveillance Programs in Healthcare Facilities
 Assessing and Developing an Infection Control Program in the Acute Care Setting

DVD / VIDEOS

Trainer's Resource for Infection Control
 It's Ok To Ask
 AROs Across the Spectrum of Care



Looking for easily accessible infection control reference material?

Look no further! Give the CSICN a call and we can arrange to have material shipped to you directly, or feel free to stop by the office for a read!

TEXTS / JOURNALS

A Clinician's Dictionary of Bacteria and Fungi
 A Guide to Infection Control in the Hospital
 American Journal of Infection Control (AJIC)*
 Anti-infective Guidelines for Community-acquired Infections
 Antibiotics: Health Consequences of Long-Term Use
 APIC Handbook of Infection Control
 APIC Text of Infection Control & Epidemiology
 APIC Text of Infection Control & Epidemiology
 Asepsis, The Right Touch - Something Old is Now New
 Bacteria that Kill: Plague, Tularemia, and Infectious Fevers
 Biological Warfare Agents
 Canada Communicable Disease Reports (CCDR)*
 Canadian Immunization Guide
 Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Guidelines*
 Certification Study Guide
 Clinical Microbiology Made Ridiculously Simple
 Clinical Wisdom and Interventions in Critical Care - A Thinking-in-Action Approach
 Clinical Wisdom and Interventions in Critical Care - A Thinking-in-Action Approach
 Control of Communicable Diseases Manual
 Diseases & Disorders Handbook
 Disinfection, Sterilization and Antisepsis: Principles, Practices, Challenge and New Research
 Guide to Physical Examination and History Taking
 Guidelines for Design and Construction of Health Care Facilities
 Home Care Handbook of Infection Control
 Infection Control in Home Care
 Infection Control in Home Care and Hospice
 Infection Control for the Health Care Worker
 Infectious Diseases Manual
 Infectious Disease Secrets: Questions You Will Be Asked
 Medical Microbiology
 Nurse's Manual of Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests
 Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens
 Quick Reference to Wound Care
 Ready Reference to Infection Control in Select Populations
 Ready Reference to Microbes
 Red Book - 2006 Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases
 Safe Food, Safe Water: A Must in the Fight Against Terrorism
 The Sanford Guide to Antimicrobial Therapy
 The Germ Busters - *children's book*
 Viruses that Kill: Smallpox, Ebola, West Nile, Marburg, and Other Potential
 Wound Healing Alternatives in Management
 Your Child's Best Shot - A parent's guide to vaccination

* *Not all titles are listed. Call the office for complete list of titles available.*



2007 Webber Training Teleclasses

February 8
Influenza - Of Poultry, Pets and People

February 15
Fresh Produce and Human Pathogenicity

February 21 (South Pacific Teleclass)
Infection Control in the Endoscopy Clinic

February 22
Best Practice for Hospital Construction Management

March 6 (British Teleclass)
Tuberculosis in the Modern Age

March 8
Voices of CHICA

March 22
A Year of Cleaner, Safer Care - A Worldwide Experience

March 29
Environmental Control Strategies for C. diff

If you are a Long Term Care facility, Retirement Home or Community Care Agency and would like to learn more about how your organization can access these teleconferences, contact the CSICN office at (905) 681-4916, toll-free: 1-866-681-4916 or by e-mail at zaporzan@hhsc.ca.

Upcoming Events

February 13, 2007
A User Friendly Approach to Hand Hygiene Practice in Acute Care Settings
12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.



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February 19, 2007
Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network
Presents:
ARO Workshop
Holiday Inn, Guelph

To register contact:
Sue McCloskey
Ph: 519. 621.2333 ext. 3092
Email: smccloskey@cmh.org

February 15, 2007
Symposium on Infection Control in Health Care Facility Design and Construction
Vaughan Estates, Estates of Sunnybrook
Toronto

For more information contact:
Maja McGuire
Ph: 416.480.6100 ext. 7971
Email: maja.mcguire@sunnybrook.ca

February 22, 2007
Infection Control During Construction and Renovation of Health Care Facilities based on CSA Z317.13
Mississauga

For more information call:
Ph: 1.800.463.5727
E-mail: seminars@csa.ca

Career Opportunities

Regional Infection Control Consultant
Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network (WWICN)
Interested candidates can send their curriculum vitae, quoting competition # 07-01-029 by February 5, 2007 to:

Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network
c/o Human Resources Department
Cambridge Memorial Hospital
700 Coronation Boulevard
Cambridge, ON N1R 3G2
Fax: 519-740-4907

For more information, go to www.cmh.org and e-mail your application to jobs@cmh.org

CSICN Contact Info

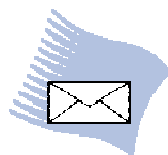
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Not on our distribution list and want to receive notices about upcoming events? Send us your e-mail address or fax number and we will be sure to include you.