

Hot News Bulletin



Mississauga Halton

*Giving Health
a Helping Hand*



This is the time of year when we reconnect with family and friends. It is also a time of year when there are numerous enteric and respiratory diseases in our communities. Take time to share the “cough etiquette” message and the importance of hand hygieneespecially when there is so much to do and no time to be sick!

In 2009, we look forward to continuing to assist you in improving your infection prevention and control practice. We also foresee creating new partnerships within our health care communities. If you have not yet connected with us, pick up the phone, or send us an e-mail - we're here to answer your questions, provide consultations and support.

Madeleine, Risa and Sandra

Webber Training
TELECLASS EDUCATION FOR HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Coming Soon! Webber Teleclasses

December 11

HALTING THE SPREAD OF MRSA BETWEEN ACUTE CARE AND LONG TERM CARE FACILITIES with Dr. Susan Huang, Brigham & Women's Hospital

December 18

THE WHO, WHEN, AND WHY OF ISOLATION PRECAUTIONS with Dr. Michelle Alfa, Diagnostic Services Manitoba
The MHICN office is happy to host these teleconferences. RSVP to Sandra Sostaric 905-804-7948

Patient Safety Indicators Teleconference—December 19th

On December 2, the OHA sent an update on Public Reporting of MRSA, VRE (and HSMR reporting) to all the acute care hospitals. To support the Public Reporting Lead, MRSA and VRE Frequently Asked Questions documents, Fact Sheets, etcetera were also forwarded. The OHA will be hosting a teleconference to support MRSA and VRE communications about the public reporting requiring requirements:

December 19, 2008 from 1100 am-1200

The recommended audience is hospital Communicators. The MHICN office has registered for this teleconference. If you are interested in attending, please contact:

Sandra Sostaric at 905-804-7948 or ssostaric@thc.on.ca

Pandemic preparedness portal launched: News Release

Called P5, the Being Prepared Is Being Protected Pandemic Portal Project is led by Queen's University professor of Community Health and Epidemiology Dr. Dick Zoutman, who is also director of Infection Control Services at Kingston General Hospital. It may be viewed at <http://www.pandemicportal.ca>.

The new initiative offers a widely accessible web portal with information and education for hospital managers, clinical leaders and front-line healthcare workers on how to protect themselves and how to help hospitals plan effectively for a pandemic. The web site is dedicated to hospitals, with special attention paid to the unique challenges often faced by smaller hospitals in rural areas.

Mandatory Influenza Vaccination Requirements for All Nurses Upheld at Arbitration

Source: Communiqué for the Health Industry: Miller Thomson LLP

In a recent decision, an arbitrator was called upon to determine whether a hospital had violated the Ontario Nurses Association collective agreement when it placed a number of nurses on unpaid leave after they refused to take the influenza vaccine. The Arbitrator upheld the hospital's decision to implement mandatory influenza vaccination for all registered nurses during a period of high community influenza activity and to place the nurses who refused to take the vaccine on an unpaid leave of absence. While this decision deals with a specific fact situation, the interpretation and application of Article 18.07 set out in the award are important for many other hospitals and health care employees. The language in Article 18.07 of the ONA central agreement is identical or very similar to language appearing in other collective agreements in the health care sector, including OPSEU (7.16), CUPE (Letter of Understanding) and SEIU (19.03) central hospital agreements. In light of the commonality of this type of language, the reasoning advanced by the Arbitrator in this case should also be applied to the vaccination provisions in other agreements.

For further information or a copy of the quoted communiqué please contact the MHICN Office.

Greetings from CHICA-Canada: Preparing to Prepare Marion Yetman (reproduced with permission from November CBIC electronic Newsletter)

CHICA-Canada is offering a special half-day session at its 2009 national education conference targeting potential CIC® candidates. The session titled "Preparing to Prepare" is unique in that it does not review topics such as microbiology or infectious diseases: instead it offers special advice to candidates on how each individual can prepare for this CIC® examination. There are four topics which include the following: 1) an overview of the CIC examination provided by the 2009 CBIC President, Sharon Krystofiak, 2) study tips, 3) study group versus independent study, and 4) multiple choice questions – tricks and pitfalls. The focus of the study tips will be to discuss how to get the most out of studying and it will review study skills and tools. An experienced teacher will provide advice on how to approach the multiple question examination and will include an interactive illustration of writing a multiple-choice exam. Multiple-choice questions are often a source of frustration to candidates and often ridiculed as "multiple guess" questions. At the end of this half day session, the participants should have an understanding of the quality and comprehensiveness of the CIC® examination and recognition that preparation is the key to success.

An American founding father said: "By failing to prepare, you are preparing to fail". — Benjamin Franklin
The MHICN office is currently hosting a CIC study group. If you are interested in joining our next session, please contact Risa Cashmore rcashmore@thc.on.ca

News From the Certification Board of Infection Control (CBIC)

The following information was included in the November Electronic newsletter from CBIC.

CBIC members voted unanimously to eliminate the 2-year practice requirement for taking the initial certification examination. The initial examination will still be aimed at the 2-year Infection Preventionist (IP) actively employed in infection prevention. A new Self Assessment Recertification Examination (SARE) for recertification is developed and released every other year. The next SARE will be released in February 2009 and will be web based. The eighth edition of the SARE will no longer be available in a paper-and-pencil format. You will be able to enter and exit the exam as many times as you wish and will be able to access the exam from any computer. CBIC encourages you to purchase the SARE as early in the year as possible.



REGIONAL INFECTION
CONTROL NETWORKS
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