

FALL 2009
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## Introducing FOCUS on Infection Prevention and Control Newsletter to Toronto Central

We are pleased to distribute the first issue of *FOCUS on Infection Prevention and Control* newsletter to the Toronto Central Infection Control Network area!

This quarterly newsletter will provide information on Infection Prevention and Control, updates and new resources. It will help to communicate upcoming events and education sessions. It can also provide a forum for local members to share stories, successes and network.

If you have newsletter ideas, items or suggestions, please contact Julie at [jmorton@baycrest.org](mailto:jmorton@baycrest.org)

## Planning Your Infection Control Week October 19-23, 2009

The third week in October is designated as **National Infection Control Week** in Canada and the United States. In Canada, Infection Control Week originated in 1988 to highlight infection control efforts in acute care, long-term care and the community. It was an opportunity for Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) to educate staff and the community about the importance of infection prevention and to promote the valuable work being done by ICPs in a visible and fun way. In 1989 the federal government proclaimed Infection Control Week an annual event.

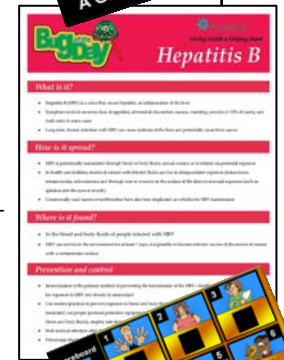
The key to a successful Infection Control Week is to provide a variety of activities that maintain a high level of interest. Success also depends upon getting a wide variety of people or departments actively involved. Your first task is to designate why your organization should participate in Infection Control Week and what you hope to achieve.

The Regional Infection Control Network has come up with a variety of new resources to help ICPs promote Infection Control Week including recommendations on how to use the resources. These include:

- ◆ Bug of the Day
- ◆ Fast Facts
- ◆ Games
- ◆ Daily Emails
- ◆ Rise to the Occasion Primer

One-page fact sheets on bacteria and viruses of health care interest have been created including hepatitis B, norovirus, and *C. difficile*. Six Fast Facts topics including hand hygiene, Routine Practices, and environmental cleaning can be shared with your staff. Power point games on a variety of infection control topics such as vancomycin resistant enterococci and Routine Practices have been developed. Be creative, games are a fun way to provide education to staff. Daily emails have also been created to promote messages on infection control topics.

These resources will be available for download soon at [www.ricn.on.ca](http://www.ricn.on.ca). More Infection Control Week ideas can be found on the CHICA-Canada website at: [http://www.chica.org/news\\_icweek.html](http://www.chica.org/news_icweek.html).



## The New Routine Has Arrived!

The Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) has released its latest Best Practice document – *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions in All Health Care Settings*. Although a new document to PIDAC, the concept of Routine Practices and Additional Precautions (RPAP) is not new to Ontario healthcare facilities. Infection Control Professionals have been teaching these concepts, based on Health Canada’s 1999 document titled *Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Health Care* (currently being revised), for almost a decade.

### What’s New With RPAP?

In general, the new document reiterates many of the principles noted in the original Health Canada document. PIDAC has just placed greater emphasis on a number of the important concepts. Below you will find a list of some of the re-emphasized material as well as highlights of some of the changes PIDAC has made to RPAP.

### What’s Emphasized?

- ◆ Importance of performing a **risk assessment** before each client interaction
- ◆ Facilities **must** have a comprehensive hand hygiene program that includes **point of care** dispensers and a **hand care** program
- ◆ **Mask and eye protection** to be worn to protect the mucous membranes
- ◆ Clients, staff, and visitors should observe **respiratory etiquette** principles (e.g. coughing into a tissue)

### What’s Changed?

Health Canada - 1999	PIDAC - 2009
Droplets travel less than 1 metre	Droplets can travel up to 2 metres
No mention of droplet/aerosol generating procedures	Staff to wear PPE when conducting a droplet/aerosol generating procedure (see pg 33 of PIDAC document)
Acute Care Contact Precautions – gloves and gowns on room entry	Gloves on room/bed space entry, gown if skin or clothing will come in contact with patient or patient’s environment
N95 respirator required when entering room of patients with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB	N95 respirator required on room entry <b>and</b> when transporting patient with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB
When visiting a patient on Airborne Precautions, if indicated, visitors should be instructed in the appropriate use of a mask and other precautions	Household contacts of a patient with active pulmonary or laryngeal TB do not require an N95 respirator when visiting the patient
Disease chart with required precautions indicated	Same chart, but many required precautions have changed (see pages 93-105 for details)

The new RPAP document can be downloaded at:

[http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic\\_routine.html](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/english/providers/program/infectious/diseases/ic_routine.html).

Contact Sarah Eden at (416) 785-2500 Ext 3897 to learn more about implementing this document in your healthcare setting.

### Check Out Our NEW Look!

Our website has changed and features:  
Improved Access to Tools & Resources  
User Friendly Navigation

[www.ricn.on.ca](http://www.ricn.on.ca)



## Networking at the Annual LTC Education Day.



The Long Term Care Education Day was held on September 17, 2009. The event was Co-organized by Toronto Public Health (TPH), Toronto and Area Professionals in Infection Control (TPIC), and Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs) serving the Toronto Area

## Upcoming Events

- October 5**—OHA -Pandemic Intervention: Sustaining Normalcy ([www.oha.com](http://www.oha.com))
- October 8**—OAHPP symposium—Tuberculosis: Out with the old, in with The New— diagnostic challenges and possibilities ([www.oahpp.ca](http://www.oahpp.ca))
- October 18–23** **Infection Control Week**
- October 19**—PSNO conference for PSW's and Supervisors -Working together Makes Us Better ([www.psno.ca](http://www.psno.ca))
- October 23** – Toronto Central Infection Control Network (TCICN) OPEN HOUSE (see page 4 for details)
- November 16–18** OHA Health Achieve Conference ([www.ohahealthachieve.com](http://www.ohahealthachieve.com))
- November 20**—Toronto Invasive Bacterial Disease Network (TIBDN) Education day (Central Public Health Lab)
- November 26**—Toronto Invasive Bacterial Disease Network (TIBDN) Education Day (Mt. Sinai Hospital)  
TIBDN Contact: Virginia Mercado [vmercado2@mtsinai.on.ca](mailto:vmercado2@mtsinai.on.ca)

**Webber Teleclasses** TCICN members can access Webber Teleclasses at no charge. Please contact us for details or to register to participate. ([www.webbertraining.com](http://www.webbertraining.com))

- October 1**—Changing Face of MRSA, Evolving epidemiology
- October 15**—The Economics of Healthcare-Associated Infections: How to Review The Literature
- October 21**—National Work on the Prevention of Healthcare Acquired Infections in Australia
- October 22**—Improving Infection Control in Developing Countries
- October 29**—Prevention of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection: New strategies from CDC/HICPAC
- November 5** – Viruses and Hand Hygiene
- November 10**—(British) Getting Guidelines into Practice
- November 12**— Clostridium difficile Associated Disease: A Financial Burden Analysis
- December 3**—Infection Control During and After Natural Disasters
- December 10**—Environmental Cleaning Audits: Do They Help to Reduce the Spread of C. difficile and Antibiotic Resistant Organisms in Healthcare Facilities

## Meet Toronto Central Infection Control Network (TCICN) Staff



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## Did you know....

... that we have a lending library of printed materials, DVDs, and resources that are available for you to access for short term loans? When you contact us, we will arrange to have most items sent out and returned back by courier at no charge to you.

We are working to update library listings on our website and are looking forward to providing you easy links to many electronically available resources.

Need a resources now? Contact us, we might be able to help.



Look for our updated library page on our website...coming soon.

Date: October 23, 2009

Time: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Please Join Us  
 Toronto Central Infection Control Network



# Open House



- Learn about our Network
- Browse the library and resources
- Meet Network staff
- Discuss infection control in our region
- Light refreshments and prizes

We are located within Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

3560 Bathurst Street, Room 106T

Contact us for additional information, and let us know you plan to attend.

Tel: (647) 788-0750

[jmorton@baycrest.org](mailto:jmorton@baycrest.org)



This newsletter was prepared by a collaborative effort of the RICNs and this Network.



Toronto Central

*Giving Health  
 a Helping Hand*

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