Our annual Fall Long-Term Care and Retirement Home Infection Control Forum was held on October 1, 2015 at RIM Park, Waterloo.

Forum topics included:
- Influenza
- Public Health Ontario Update
- Antibiotic Resistant Organism Quick Tips
- Enteric Outbreak Preparedness
- Big Shot Challenge
- Vaccine Update

This e-newsletter has been created to provide you with highlights of the event, links to presentations, and important contact information. Please share with your colleagues.

Thank you to all who participated in the Fall Forum.

Spring Forum!
Mark your calendar for Thursday June 9, 2016. More information and registration details will be coming soon.

**Influenza**

**Presenter:** Dr. Allison McGeer, MD MSc FRCPC
Microbiologist & Infectious Disease Consultant
Director of Infection Control
Director, Infectious Diseases Epidemiology Research Program, Mount Sinai Hospital

Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto

Dr. McGeer trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases at the University of Toronto, then completed a fellowship in hospital epidemiology at Yale New Haven Hospital in 1989/90. She is currently a member of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization, and the Infection Control Subcommittee of the Ontario Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Her areas of research interest are the epidemiology of influenza infection, the prevention of healthcare associated infection, and antimicrobial resistance.

**Introduction slides delivered by Dr Hsiu-Li Wang**

Watch the video presentation called “Influenza” (to view the video in full screen mode, click the arrows at the bottom right corner of the video clip)

Watch an on-demand video recording called “Seasonal Influenza” given by Dr. Allison McGeer in 2012 at the University of Toronto

Please visit Region of Waterloo Public Health website and Public Health Ontario website for more information about influenza and influenza vaccine.
Public Health Ontario Update

Presenter: Jill Richmond, RN, CIC

Jill is the Network Coordinator for the Waterloo Wellington Infection Control Network at Public Health Ontario. She’s a Registered Nurse and has practiced in a variety of settings including medicine, cardiology and long term care before joining the world of infection control.

Summary:
PHO is currently working on the following IPAC initiatives:

- Updated Resources from Public Health Ontario include:
  - Tools for Preparedness: Triage, screening and patient management for Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infections in acute care settings
  - Recommendations for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccine Schedule
- Document under review:
  - Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections (May 2012)
- Core Competency Online Learning Modules:
  - New: Control of the environment and Administrative controls
  - Coming soon: Additional precautions
- Communities of Practice CoP:
  - Retirement CoP – Next meeting: Spring 2016 (meet twice yearly)
  - LTC CoP – Next meeting: Dec 9 at WWICN office, Cambridge (meet quarterly)
  - Environmental Services LTC CoP – Next meeting: Dec 17, 8:30-10:30, location TBD
- Non Acute Care ICP Training Program
- IPAC Week Ideas
- LTC ICP Refresher Education Series
- CIC Prep Series

Please visit the PHO website for more information about these IPAC initiatives.

Antibiotic Resistant Organisms Quick Tips

Regional Infection Control Networks were created by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to coordinate infection prevention and control activities, and promote standardization, in health care facilities across all regions of Ontario.

Abbreviated as “RICN,” these Networks support you and your work on the front lines of Ontario’s health care. The RICN are your partners in preventing and controlling the transmission of infections and infectious diseases. They want to help protect your health, that of your co-workers, and those in your care.

This presentation from RICN highlights Best Practices for Infection Prevention and Control of Resistant Staphylococcus aureus and Enterococci – a key focus for health care settings.

Despite the advances made in medical knowledge, infectious diseases are becoming an increasing threat to public health. Antibiotic resistance is a serious threat to the treatment of infectious diseases. Although antibiotic resistant organisms (AROs) have existed since the use of antibiotics began, they have developed rapidly only in the last 50 years. Since the usual method of acquisition of MRSA and VRE infection is via direct or indirect contact, it is possible to prevent these infections by instituting a set of practices and procedures that will prevent transmission of MRSA and VRE to clients/patients/residents via unprotected contact.
Please visit the [PHO website](https://pho.on.ca) (search on word ‘ARO’) for more resources for both health care professionals and residents/families.

To discuss ARO screening, testing and surveillance in detail, and/or to provide feedback about this presentation, please contact:

**Jill Richmond**  
Network Consultant  
Public Health Ontario | Santé publique Ontario  
Regional Infection Control Network – Waterloo Wellington  
350 Conestoga Blvd, Unit B4B  
Cambridge, ON N1R 7L7  

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### The Big Shot Challenge

The Big Shot Challenge is a local campaign which promotes influenza immunization for residents and staff.

**Your Big Shot Challenge...**

- To immunize 100 per cent of eligible staff/eligible residents  
- To achieve a 90 per cent immunization rate in staff in your facility  
- To achieve a 10 per cent increase in staff immunization rate in your facility over the previous season  
- To achieve the most improved rate of staff immunization in the Region of Waterloo compared to the previous season

To participate and submit staff immunization forms to Public Health

**All immunized staff employed by long term care and retirement facilities are eligible to participate in draws for one of eleven prizes**

**Prizes:**

**Facilities**

- Certificate of participation for submission of staff immunization rates in your facility  
- Certificate for achieving a 10 per cent increase in staff immunization rates over the previous season  
- Certificate for achieving 90 per cent in staff immunization rates  
- Plaque for 100 per cent achievement in staff immunization rates  
- Celebratory prize for staff at the facility achieving the greatest increase in staff immunization in the Region of Waterloo

**Individuals**

All immunized staff employed by long term care and retirement facilities are eligible to participate in draws for one of eleven prizes, including the **Grand Prize of a $200 Master Card gift card**

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**GOODLUCK** to all Facilities and Participants!  
We will draw all prize winners at our Spring Long Term Care Forum
Make Ready for Enteric Outbreak Season

Presenter: Kathryn Bromley, MSc, CPHI, CIC

Kathy is the Infection Control Specialist for Health Protection and Investigation at Region of Waterloo Public Health. She’s a Public Health Inspector and has a passion for everything that is infection control and has a special interest in enteric outbreak prevention.

Summary:
Enteric outbreaks can negatively impact patients & residents, staff and the facility involved. Proactively taking steps to prepare for enteric outbreaks can ensure that staff have the resources and training to implement outbreak control measures and minimize the impact of the enteric outbreak. This presentation will provide a summary of the four key areas of outbreak preparedness include, but are not limited to:

Outbreak preparedness includes, but is not limited to:

- Reviewing and updating outbreak policies & procedures including:
  - Staff exclusion policies
  - Routine practices and hand hygiene
  - Environmental cleaning
  - Medical Equipment cleaning
  - Collection of stool specimens
  - Collection of food samples & food retention program
  - Enteric disease surveillance
  - Notification of public health, staff, patients/ residents, and visitors of outbreak
- Conducting audits to ensure:
  - Practices follow procedures (e.g. hand hygiene, PPE use and environmental & medical equipment cleaning)
  - IPAC lapses and reasons lapses are occurring are identified, and action is taken to address the lapses. (e.g. IPAC education sessions/in-service workshops for staff, residents and volunteers)
  - Equipment and supplies are available, accessible and have not expired (e.g. stool kits, ABHR, disinfectant, PPE)
  - Outbreak notification, contact precaution and droplet precaution signage is available
- Ensure routine practices are followed and when appropriate, additional precautions are used. This should occur at all times, not just during outbreaks
- Conduct routine surveillance to identify ill persons, and when enteric illness is suspected, also conduct active surveillance to identify additional cases (e.g. verify why staff have called in sick).

For more information about enteric outbreak preparedness, prevention and control, please refer to the Guide to the Control of Gastroenteritis in Long-Term Care Homes (2013) and the PIDAC Best Practice Documents available on the PHO website.

Coming soon! Region of Waterloo Public Health Enteric Outbreak Resource Guide. This will supplement the Guide to the Control of Gastroenteritis in Long-Term Care Homes with resources and information applicable to Region of Waterloo.

To discuss enteric outbreak preparedness or report an enteric outbreak, please contact:

Health Protection and Investigation, Region of Waterloo Public Health
519-575-4400 ext 5147 (8:30 am – 4:30 pm)
519-575-4400 (after hours)

View Make Ready for Enteric Outbreak Season presentation
Vaccine Update

Presenters: Kathy Rosenberg, RN

Kathy is a Public Health Nurse on the Infectious Disease & TB Team at Region of Waterloo Public Health. She is involved in respiratory outbreak prevention and control.

Summary:

Influenza Vaccine:

This 2015/16 season there are 2 types of vaccines available:

- Trivalent (contains 3 strains of the influenza virus)
- Quadrivalent (contains 4 strains of the influenza virus)

This season’s vaccine provides coverage for:

Trivalent:
- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus strain
- A/Switzerland/9715293/2013 (H3N2)-like virus strain
- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus strain

Quadrivalent:
- Above three strains plus:
  - B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus strain.
- Available for ages 6 months up to 17 years of age

Recommended Recipients:
- Persons at high risk of influenza related complications
- Persons capable of transmitting influenza to individuals at high risk of complications
- Others at high risk of contracting influenza and transmitting illness

Publically funded Flu vaccines include:
- Fluad® - For LTCH residents 65 years of age and older
- Agriflu®
- Fluviral®
- Influvac® (adults 18 years of age and over)
- Flulaval® (6 months up to 17 years of age)
- Fluzone® (6 months up to 17 years of age)

Tdap:
- NOW publically funded as a one-time dose for all adults over 18 years of age who have not received the Tdap vaccine in adolescence

Pneumococcal Vaccine:

Pneumovax 23®-covers 23 strains of pneumococcal bacteria

Eligibility:
- All residents of LTCFs and chronic care facilities
- All persons 65 years of age and older
- High risk persons 2 – 64 years of age with certain medical conditions (see NACI Statement)

Prevnar 13®- covers 13 strains of pneumococcal bacteria; provides longer protection

Eligibility:
- Now licensed for anyone 50 years of age and older
- Publically funded for adults who meet following criteria:
  - Adults with hematopoietic stem cell transplants (HSCT)
  - Adults with HIV
  - Adults with immunosuppressive conditions

Shingles Vaccine:

- Live attenuated virus vaccine
- Indicated for the prevention of shingles in individuals 50 years and older
- NOT publically funded (cost is approximately $175-$225 per dose)

For more information about the vaccine, please visit the Region of Waterloo Public Health website.
Region of Waterloo Public Health contact numbers:

Enteric Line and stool kits
519-575-4400 ext. 5147
Enteric Line Fax (line lists)
Waterloo Office: 519-883-2226
Cambridge Office: 519-622-1235
Respiratory Line and respiratory kits
519-575-4400 ext. 5506
Respiratory Line Fax (line lists)
519-883-2248
Fax Vaccine Order to
519-883-2248

After hours: To report an outbreak on weekends, holidays and after hours, call: 519-575-4400

Have suggestions for future forums?
We’d love to hear from you!
519-575-4400 ext. 5506

This document is available in alternate formats upon request.

Spring Long-Term Care and Retirement Home Infection Control Forum
Thursday, June 9, 2016 from 8:45 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Waterloo Region Museum
10 Huron Road, Kitchener