

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1 · FEBRUARY 2023

GREY BRUCE IPAC HUB

Official Newsletter of the Grey Bruce IPAC Hub



Grey Bruce
Public Health

New Year New Look!

The IPAC Hub would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. The new year brings a fresh new look to the Grey Bruce IPAC Hub. We invite you to visit the Grey Bruce IPAC Hub website for all of your IPAC needs. For a few months now, the Grey Bruce IPAC Hub has been designing our own personalized website. The vision for this website is to be a place where our congregate settings can go to find internal and external resources, an events calendar, frequently asked questions and much more!

The [Grey Bruce IPAC Hub website](http://www.greybruceipachub.ca) can be found here:

www.greybruceipachub.ca

As always, we appreciate any feedback. If there are any resources, etc. that you believe would be beneficial, please let us know so we can add them to the website.

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The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the IPAC Hub website. On the left is the IPAC Hub logo. To its right are links for 'Our Team', 'Services', 'Resources', 'Education and Training', 'Events Calendar', 'FAQ', and 'Contact Us'. A prominent orange button labeled 'REQUEST A SERVICE' is on the right. Below the navigation is a large banner image showing hands being washed with soap. The text 'Introducing the Grey Bruce IPAC Hub.' is overlaid on the image, followed by the tagline 'Get accessible and personalized IPAC assistance remotely or in-person at your facility.'



Website:
www.greybruceipachub.ca



Contact:
519-376-9420



Email:
ipachub@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

We want to hear from YOU!

With the new year upon us, the Grey Bruce IPAC Hub is planning our events and newsletter for the upcoming months. BUT, we want to hear from you! The goal of the IPAC Hub is to provide IPAC assistance and support to congregate settings in our area. In order to best serve you, we want to know what topics are of interest to your organization. We are interested in topics for educational sessions, newsletter, etc.

Please connect with us at
ipachub@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca.

Drop in Question and Answer Hour?

The Hub will be offering a drop in hour to via Zoom on the 21st of every month from 930am to 1030am.
 Pop in and ask your questions!

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://gbhu-ca.zoom.us/j/88600691464?pwd=MGRtN2l6U3JReXJwbUdxdWxOMlArZz09>
 Meeting ID: 886 0069 1464
 Passcode: 806893

Expired products

L022/14
01/2017

In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, supply shortages were a challenge throughout health care settings. As a result, there was a stockpiling of resources in homes to ensure that supplies would not run out. The abundance of products received during the early days of the pandemic may still be in inventory.

During our recent on-site visits, we have noticed more and more expired products being used throughout homes, including hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, etc.

We want to encourage all homes to take a look at their supplies and review expiration dates. All expired products should be appropriately disposed of and replaced.

Going forward, homes are encouraged to routinely check expiration dates and follow a first in, first out process for their inventory.

Have you heard of First In, First Out (FIFO)?

This is a process whereby the products that are received first, are used first. This means that the oldest products are the ones that are going to be used first, so that they can be used, for example, before they reach their expiration date.



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Respiratory Pathogens

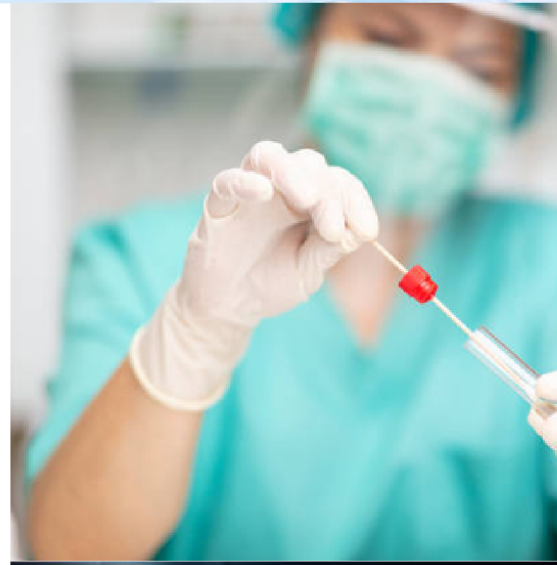
We continue to see an increase in community illness and frequent respiratory outbreaks in our local congregate settings (LTCH, RH, congregate care). Many respiratory viruses continue to circulate in our community and symptoms of the common cold, RSV, influenza, COVID-19 are all very similar and range from mild to severe symptoms, and it can be very difficult to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone. We remind care homes to continue to be vigilant with their screening and surveillance practices.

What is....Human Metapneumovirus?

Human metapneumovirus (HMPV) can cause upper and lower respiratory disease in people of all ages, especially among young children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems.

Symptoms commonly associated with HMPV include cough, fever, nasal congestion, and shortness of breath. Clinical symptoms of HMPV infection may progress to bronchitis or pneumonia and are similar to other viruses that cause upper and lower respiratory infections. The estimated incubation period is 3 to 6 days, and the median duration of illness can vary depending upon severity but is similar to other respiratory infections caused by viruses.

Reference: Human Metapneumovirus Clinical Features - NREVSS | CDC



Ontario Respiratory Pathogen Bulletin



Public Health Ontario (PHO) monitors and analyzes the spread and intensity of respiratory pathogen activity and influenza in Ontario to support local, provincial, federal and global surveillance efforts.

A weekly summary is posted here: www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/respiratory-pathogens-weekly

[Click Here!](#)



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New / Updated Documents

Updates to current guidance and development of new documents continues across our Ministries and Public Health Ontario. Keep update by visiting their websites fequently.

- [COVID-19: Infection Prevention and Control Checklist for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes \(publichealthontario.ca\)](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/nCoV/ipac/covid-19-ipack-checklist-ltcrh.pdf?rev=0a82f997eb604c8ab5d0b6bbc9f6198d&sc_lang=en)
www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/nCoV/ipac/covid-19-ipack-checklist-ltcrh.pdf?rev=0a82f997eb604c8ab5d0b6bbc9f6198d&sc_lang=en
- [Prevention and Management of COVID-19 in Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes \(publichealthontario.ca\)](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/nCoV/ltcrh/2020/06/covid-19-prevention-management-ltcrh.pdf?rev=7e275fca10394e078cd5a115ee414a4c&sc_lang=en)
www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/nCoV/ltcrh/2020/06/covid-19-prevention-management-ltcrh.pdf?rev=7e275fca10394e078cd5a115ee414a4c&sc_lang=en
- [COVID-19 Provincial Testing Guidance](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19_provincial_testing_guidance.pdf)
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/COVID-19_provincial_testing_guidance.pdf
- [COVID-19 Guidance: Long-Term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, and Other Congregate Living Settings for Public Health Units \(gov.on.ca\)](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/LTCH_RH_guidance_PHU.pdf)
www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/LTCH_RH_guidance_PHU.pdf



Upcoming Events and Newsletters

1. Grey Bruce IPAC Hub Newsletters will be available quarterly through our mailout list and on our public website.
2. OH West Community of Practice for Congregate Settings and Retirement Homes will be held on March 8, 2023 (subject to change). A invite will be sent out soon.
3. IPAC Hub and Congregate Setting Meetings will continue to be monthly (subject to change).
4. Infectious Diseases Team, Long-Term Care and Retirement Home meeting will be monthly (subject to change).
5. [IPAC Canada National Conference May 28-31, 2023](#)
6. [Save Lives Clean Your Hands Day May 5 2023](#)

2023 CIC Prep Series

[IPAC Central South \(IPAC-CSO\)](#), IPAC Northeastern Ontario (IPAC-NEO), IPAC Northwestern Ontario (IPAC-NWO), and IPAC South Western Ontario (IPAC-SWO), in collaboration with Public Health Ontario, are pleased to offer a Certification in Infection Control (CIC) Preparation Series. Registration for the 2023 sessions are now open.



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