

## ROLE OF THE INFECTION CONTROL PRACTITIONER

The home will follow the guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care - Ontario Regulation 79/10 made under the [Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2007](#): filed March 29, 2010: section 229, as well as evidence-based literature recommendations for infection prevention and control practices in health care settings found at:

1. Public Health Ontario. Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee. Best Practices for Infection Prevention and Control Programs in Ontario in All Health Care Settings (2012)  
[http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/BP\\_IPAC\\_Ontario\\_HCS\\_ettings\\_2012.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/BP_IPAC_Ontario_HCS_ettings_2012.pdf)

Each home will have an Infection Control Practitioner who is responsible and accountable for the day-to-day functioning and promotion and implementation of policies and procedures of the *Infection Prevention and Control Program* within the home.

The Infection Control Practitioner (ICP), a Registered Nurse or a registered Medical Laboratory Technologist, serves as a leader, mentor and role model for infection prevention and control and should be allocated sufficient time to carry out these activities within the home. The ICP shall have education and experience in infection prevention and control practices, including,

- (a) infectious diseases;
- (b) cleaning and disinfection;
- (c) data collection and trend analysis;
- (d) reporting protocols; and
- (e) outbreak management.

and will work towards qualification and Certification in Infection Control (CIC)

### PROCEDURE:

1. *The Infection Control Practitioner will:*
  - Be educated in the principles of infection prevention and control.
  - Act as chair of the Infection Prevention and Control Committee.
  - Be responsible for key elements of the *Infection Prevention and Control Program*:
    - Implementation of [Routine Practices and Additional Precautions](#)
    - Surveillance

- Outbreak management
- Review and update of infection prevention and control policies and procedures
- Education of staff, residents and others on infection prevention and control issues. See [Appendix B](#) for a sample daily routine for ICP.
- Compile, review, analyze and report monthly resident infection rates to the Administrator.
- Follow guidelines for reporting reportable diseases to Peel Public Health. See Section 3 Surveillance – [Reportable Diseases](#)
- Work with departmental supervisors/managers to ensure that regular audits are completed to monitor adherence to infection prevention and control practices and standards, and with the appropriate Supervisor, develop and implement corrective action as needed.
- Maintain awareness of current infection prevention and control practices.
- Act as a resource and attend departmental meetings when topics concerning infection prevention and control are discussed.
- Attend local Long Term Care Infection Prevention and Control Group meetings.
- Be an active member of the Outbreak Management Team.
- Support and promote provision of immunizations (e.g. influenza, pneumococcal) for all residents within the facility.
- Ensure that the home complies with the regulations related to communicable disease management and surveillance (e.g. tuberculin skin testing) as outlined in the Nursing Homes Act.
- Initiate, in consultation with the Director of Care and/or Medical Director, such studies as are indicated by the surveillance data.
- Promote the value of the scientific basis of infection prevention and control and epidemiology.
- Will be a local chapter member of [CHICA Canada](#) and attend regular meetings.
- Will network with other ICPs in the local network.

- Will attend regular in-services offered by the Infection Control Practitioner network.
- Will function as a resource regarding supplies and products.

The ICP will work with Peel Public Health to investigate and follow up cases of reportable diseases that occur in the home. The ICP will notify Peel Public Health of all reportable diseases promptly. This can be done by calling Peel Public Health at 905-791-7800 during regular business hours. Outbreaks and diseases that are designated as requiring immediate reporting should be reported to Peel Public Health at the above number during business hours or by calling 905-799-7700 after hours and on weekends.

The ICP will work with Peel Health to promote:

- 95% coverage for pneumococcal and annual influenza vaccination in residents, and
- a minimum of 70% coverage for annual influenza vaccination of health care workers in contact with residents.

**Additional Resources:**

**Educational Programs:**

For information on Canadian Infection Prevention and Control Courses visit CHICA- Canada at:

[http://www.chica.org/educ\\_education.php](http://www.chica.org/educ_education.php)