

Ministry of Health

Health System Emergency
Management Branch
Pandemic Response and Public
Health Modernization Division
Suite 810, 8th Floor
1075 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M5S 2B1
Telephone: 416-212-0822
Facsimile: 416-212-4466

Ministère de la Santé

Direction de la gestion des urgences du
système de santé
Division de l'intervention contre la pandémie et
de la modernisation du système de santé publique
Bureau 810, 8^e étage
1075, rue Bay
Toronto ON M5S 2B1
Téléphone: 416 212-0822
Télécopieur: 416 212-4466



July 20th, 2021

Subject: Launch of Action IPAC Series

Good Afternoon Colleagues;

The Ministry of Health in partnership with Public Health Ontario (PHO) is launching a six-month voluntary program aimed at enhancing and reinforcing Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices within the health sector and congregate living organizations. Participation will help in your organization's response to COVID-19 and help to strengthen your IPAC Program for the future.

The need for strong IPAC practices has been ever present across the pandemic and, with the emergence of COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC) this need is heightened. We know that some of the VOCs are more transmissible than non-VOC viruses, making them easier to spread across groups of patients/ residents, staff and essential caregivers or other visitors. The latest information about VOCs and their spread in Ontario can be found on PHO's website.

The **Action IPAC Series** is designed to provide quick, easy and actionable IPAC advice through short weekly exercise prompts via email messages. These exercise prompts will address key areas of IPAC practice, information about why the practice is important, and practical ideas about how to strengthen practice. The program aims to strengthen core areas of IPAC practice and support ongoing learning and continuous improvement of IPAC programs within organizations.

The program does not replace the role of external audits, advice, or orders from technical IPAC experts (through IPAC Hubs, Public Health Units, inspectors or other bodies). Instead it helps organizations to build their internal programs and practice, keep a continuous focus on IPAC and build skills across staff teams.

Who can participate?

The **Action IPAC Series** is open to any health care organization or congregate living setting. Depending on the size of the organization and the maturity of their existing IPAC program, the application of the program may be different. For example:

- a long-term care home may identify a PSW, Nurse, or another staff member to use the exercises to bring attention to IPAC issues

- a hospital may participate and use the prompts as exercises in different wards
- a primary care office may use the prompts directly to review their practices
- a shelter or retirement home may have their IPAC leads review the prompts and implement through their existing IPAC structures (e.g., unit leads or across the setting).

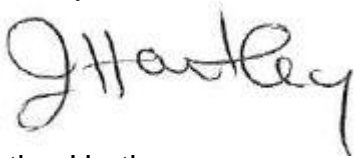
Any staff member within an organization can sign up and participate on behalf of their organization. While some organizations may have IPAC leads, implementing this program can be delegated to any staff member. Broadening the engagement of IPAC to all staff demonstrates that IPAC is a responsibility shared by the entire team.

How do I get more information or sign up?

To get more information or sign up for the Action IPAC series please email ActionIPAC.MOH@ontario.ca. The program will start the week of July 26th 2021, but organizations may join at any time.

Thank you for your attention and for your work to enhance IPAC practices in your organization.

Sincerely,



Justine Hartley
Director, Health System Emergency Management Branch

- cc. Alison Blair, Associate Deputy Minister, Pandemic Response and Recovery, Ministry of Health
Nadia Surani, A/ Director, Primary Health Care Branch, Ontario Health Insurance Plan Division, Ministry of Health
Alison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch, Strategic Policy, Planning & French Language Services Division
Nina Arron, Director Health Protection & Surveillance Policy and Programs Branch, Office of Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health
Tess Romain, Ontario Health Lead, Toronto Region
Catherine Brown, Executive Vice President, COVID Pandemic Response, Ontario Health
Dr. Jessica Hopkins, Chief Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness Officer, Public Health Ontario