

Ministry of Health

Infection Prevention and Control Hubs

In the fall of 2020, The Ministry of Health established Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hubs to strengthen IPAC practices in congregate living settings (CLSs) across Ontario.

IPAC Hubs are local teams of IPAC experts dedicated to supporting CLSs in implementing IPAC best practices. They work closely with those staff who have responsibility for IPAC to tailor IPAC practices to local needs, providing specialized guidance, networking opportunities, coaching, mentoring, training, and education. Additionally, they may assist with the implementation of outbreak measures in conjunction with local Public Health Units.

The IPAC Hub Model

IPAC Hubs are hosted in hospitals and public health units, collaborating with local health system partners to ensure specialized IPAC guidance and support are available to congregate living settings through a one-window model. These settings include:

- Long-term care homes
- Retirement homes
- Homes for adults with developmental disabilities
- Emergency shelters for survivors of gender-based violence
- Specialized out-of-home care for survivors of human trafficking
- Children's licensed residential settings
- Youth justice licenced facilities
- Indigenous Healing and Wellness Strategy residential programs.

They work closely with those responsible for IPAC in CLSs to support implementation of IPAC best practices through:

- Hosting networking opportunities (e.g., community of practices, drop-in sessions) for information sharing / collaboration opportunities;
- Mentoring and coaching those most responsible for IPAC in CLSs;
- Assisting with outbreak management plans; supporting CLSs with the implementation of outbreak measures in conjunction with the local Public Health Unit;
- Delivering education and training to those who support IPAC in CLSs;

- Working alongside CLSs in their development of IPAC programs, policy and procedures within sites / organizations;
- Working alongside CLSs in IPAC assessments and audits and feedback of IPAC programs and practices;
- Providing recommendations to strengthen IPAC programs and practices; and
- Supporting CLSs to implement IPAC recommendations.

The Ministry continues to fund this province-wide network of local IPAC Hubs, providing CLSs with a formal and coordinated pathway to access IPAC expertise. In 2023-24, IPAC Hubs delivered over 44,700 services (both remote and onsite) with approximately 10,400 services delivered onsite.

Building a Sustainable IPAC Infrastructure

The establishment of IPAC Hubs by the Ministry of Health has strengthened infection prevention and control practices across Ontario's congregate living settings. By providing tailored guidance, education, and support, IPAC Hubs play a crucial role in safeguarding the health and well-being of some of Ontario's most vulnerable populations. The ongoing collaboration with local Public Health Units and health system partners ensures that IPAC best practices are effectively implemented and sustained. The Ministry will continue to build on the strengths of the IPAC Hubs as a key part of the province's commitment to strengthening public health.

To find your local IPAC Hub, please contact IPACHubs@ontario.ca.