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# Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Orientation for IPAC Leads in Long-Term Care: Environmental Cleaning

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## Learning Objectives

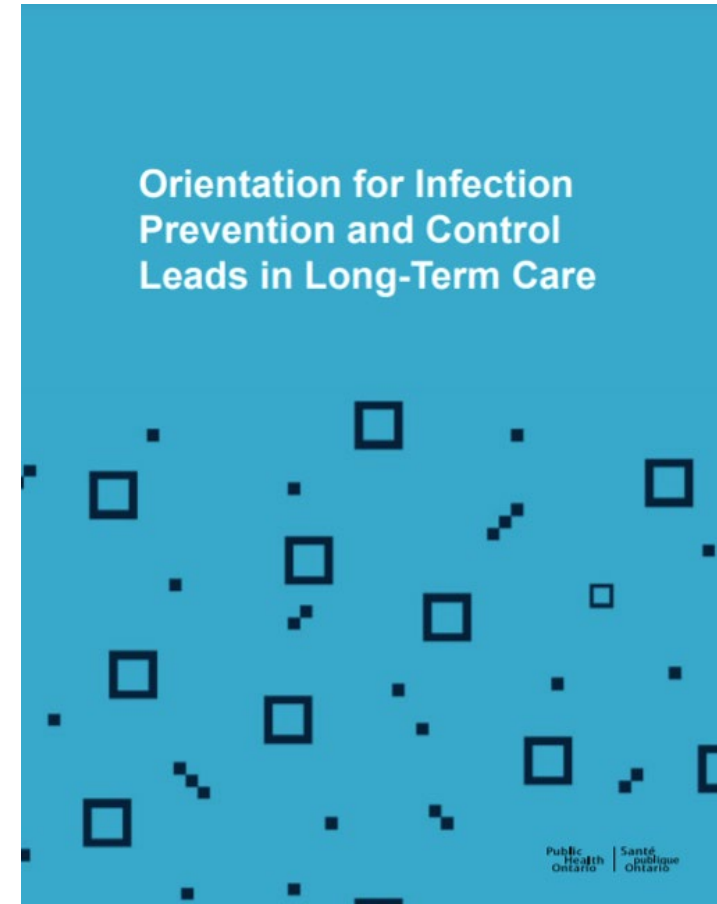
- Describe the role of the environment in the transmission of infectious agents and the importance of collaborating with the Environmental Service department
- Identify key principles of cleaning and disinfecting the environment
- Identify IPAC considerations related to:
  - Physical environment
  - Waste management
  - Laundry and linen handling

# Agenda

Item	Time	Topic
1	5 minutes	Welcome and introductions
2	5 minutes	Introduction to the Checklist: IPAC Orientation for the Infection Control Leads in LTC
3	35 minutes	Environmental Cleaning
4	10 minutes	Questions and Answers
5	5 minutes	Wrap-up and next steps

# Checklist for IPAC Orientation for IPAC Leads in Long-Term Care

- PHO has developed a new webpage that will contain the Checklist and the series of presentations
- The Checklist and the series of presentations will help build your IPAC knowledge.



Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Orientation for infection prevention and control leads in long-term care [Internet]. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2022 [cited 2022 May 12]. Available from: [https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/I/2022/ipac-leads-orientation-long-term-care.pdf?sc\\_lang=en](https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/Documents/I/2022/ipac-leads-orientation-long-term-care.pdf?sc_lang=en)

# Question



- Does your Environmental Cleaning department attend and present at your IPAC committee meeting?

# Environmental Cleaning



# The Role of the Environment

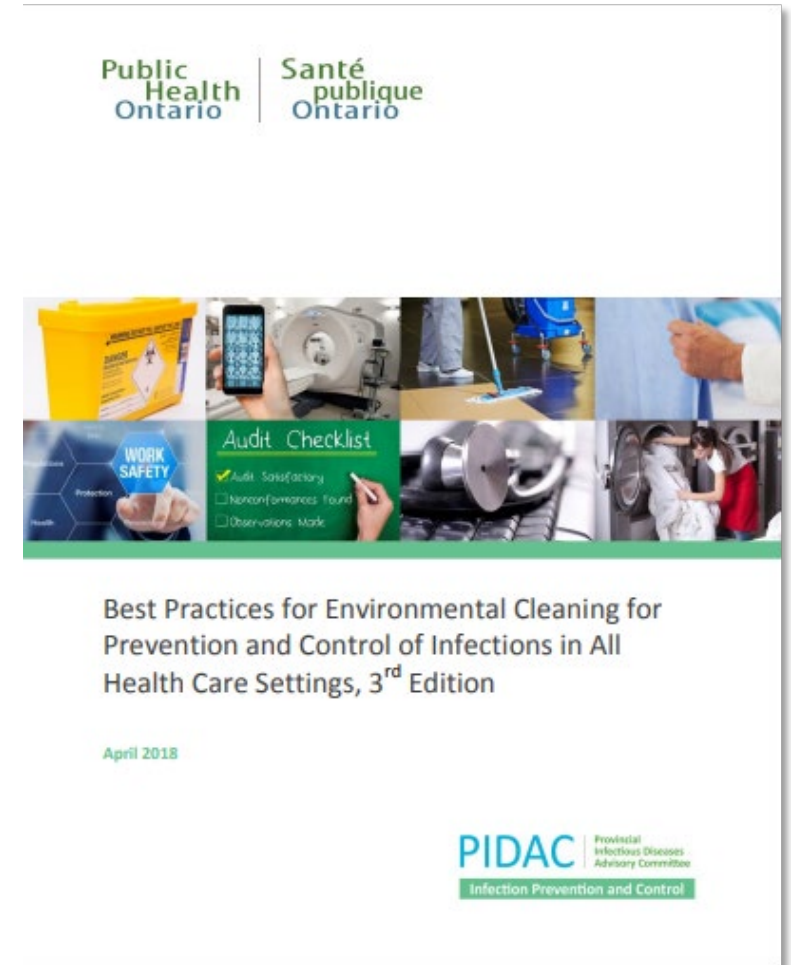


- Health care associated infections (HAIs) are infections that occur as a result of health care interventions or living/working/visiting a health care setting.
- Many factors contribute to the risk of developing an HAI.
- A key factor is the cleanliness of the environment around the resident.
- The environment around the resident influences the incidence of infection in all health care settings.



# What is the Evidence?

- Germs survive in the environment
- Germs can be spread from the environment to residents
- A contaminated environment is associated with infections in residents
- Effective cleaning disrupts the spread of infections



## What Role Do I Play and Why Should I Collaborate?

Environmental cleaning (EC) is key to infection prevention and control. The role of the IPAC lead includes:

- Providing IPAC education to the Environmental Services (ES) staff
- Ensuring ES participates in the IPAC Committee
- Participating in identifying roles and responsibilities for environmental cleaning
- Verifying that an organization's policies and procedures are based on best practice guidelines
- Consulting with the ES department for product selection and emphasizing the need for following manufacturer's instructions

# Key Principles of Cleaning and Disinfecting the Environment



## Equipment Selection and Purchasing

- Consider occupational health requirements, resident safety, IPAC and environmental safety issues
- Equipment purchased must have written instructions for how to clean and disinfect and be able to be cleaned and disinfected according to the recommended standards
- Items loaned or shared must follow same standards

# Finishes and Surfaces

- Finishes and Surfaces must be:
  - cleanable
  - easily maintained and repaired
  - unable to support growth of germs
  - smooth with no openings that would trap germs
  - seamless
  - inspected regularly to ensure they are in good repair

If outside furniture from family does not meet the criteria for finishes and surfaces. Here are some considerations:

- Manage on case-by-case basis as per policy
- Cover furniture with cleanable material, or if not possible restrict use only to resident
- Develop cleaning plan in case of contamination

# Question



- Are you involved in decision making about product selection and purchases at your facility?

# Electronic Equipment



- If it cannot be adequately cleaned and disinfected, or covered to allow appropriate cleaning and disinfection, it should not enter the immediate care environment.
- Ensure there are policies and procedures in place for staff appropriately cleaning and disinfecting electronic devices

## Detergents and Cleaning Agents

- Remove soil and other materials such as blood or body fluids.
- They must:
  - be approved by ES, IPAC and Occupational Health
  - be used according to the manufacturer's recommendations
  - be used as part of a 2-step process, followed by disinfection with a healthcare grade disinfectant



## Disinfectants

- Disinfectants rapidly kill or inactivate most infectious agents
- Only use to disinfect and not as a general cleaning agent unless it is a combined “cleaner-disinfectant”
- They must:
  - be approved by ES, IPAC and Occupational Health
  - have a drug identification number (DIN)
  - be used according to the manufacturer’s instructions

# Question



- Are you familiar with all the cleaning and disinfecting products used in your facility?

# Considerations for Choosing a Disinfectant Product

- Consider the following when choosing a product:
  - The product must have a drug identification number (DIN)
  - The nature of the item to be disinfected
  - Contact time requirements
  - Occupational health considerations
  - Environmental considerations



## Use of Disinfectants

- Item or surface must first be free of visible soil (unless using a combined cleaner/disinfectant)
- Use according to manufacturer's instructions
- Minimize contamination (e.g. no double dipping)
- Use recommended personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Quality monitoring system to ensure disinfectant is at the proper concentration

## Using Disinfectant Wipes Properly

- Wipes must be kept wet and discarded if they become dry
  - Keep lid of wipes container closed to prevent drying out
- Wipes must have a safety data sheet and be used accordingly (e.g. wear gloves when handling, if recommended)
- Ensure the active ingredient is an appropriate health care grade disinfectant



## When to Use Disinfectant Wipes

- Items in the care environment that will not tolerate soaking
- Items that must be disinfected between resident use at the point-of-care (e.g. a stethoscope)
- If an item is in the resident environment and shared, it requires cleaning and disinfection after each use

# Routine Cleaning and Disinfection

- Routine cleaning is necessary to maintain a measure of cleanliness
- Must be effective and consistent to reduce transmission of microorganisms
- Frequency of cleaning is dependent upon the risk classification of the surface or item to be cleaned
- 2 measures of cleanliness:
  - *Hotel clean*
  - *Health care clean*

# Measures of Cleanliness

## Hotel Clean

- Hotel clean is the basic level of cleaning that takes place in all areas of a health care setting
- A measure of cleanliness based on visual appearance

## Health Care Clean

- Health care clean is “Hotel clean” with the addition of disinfection, increased frequency of cleaning, auditing and other infection control measures in resident care areas.

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for infection prevention and control. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf>



# Question



- Does your facility have written policies and procedures for cleaning resident rooms?

# Factors to Consider When Determining How Often to Clean

- Are surfaces high touch or low touch?
- What type of activity takes place in the area?
- Are the residents in that area already vulnerable to infection?
- How likely are the surfaces in that area to be contaminated with blood or body fluids?
- Does the resident have a certain type of infection?
  - *C. difficile*, Vancomycin-resistant Enterococci

# Outbreaks



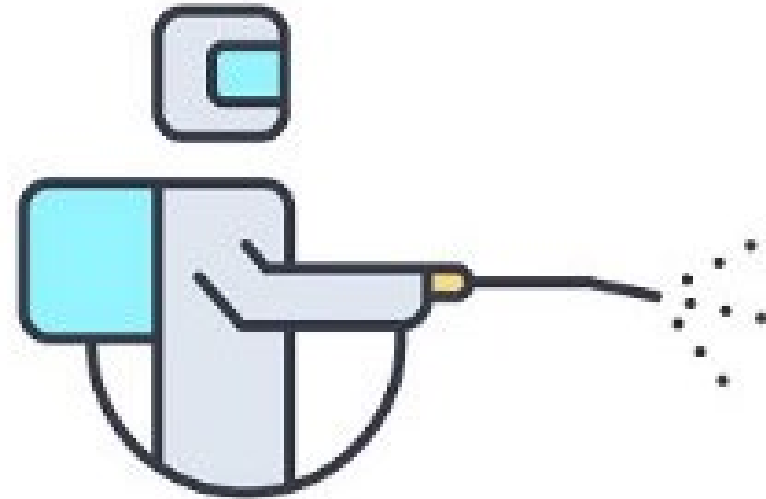
- Additional cleaning may be required
- ES management should be part of the outbreak management committee
- Policies should allow for surge capacity of ES staff

## Additional Precautions

- Appropriate signage affixed to the entrance to the room that indicates the PPE required when carrying out activities inside the room
- When Additional Precautions require extra cleaning practices, a process should be in place to ensure that this is communicated to ES staff

# New and Evolving Technologies

- Electrostatic spray systems
- Air disinfection/fogging
  - Hydrogen peroxide systems
  - Ozone gas
  - Super-oxidized water
- Ultraviolet (UV) irradiation
- Steam Vapour
- Antimicrobial impregnated supplies and equipment



Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. Best practices for environmental cleaning for infection prevention and control. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2018. Available from: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2018/bp-environmental-cleaning.pdf>

# Education

- Homes must have a training program
  - At orientation and ongoing
- Training programs must include:
  - Written plan
  - Observing worker practices or other forms of auditing (e.g. ATP Monitoring)
  - Written training records
  - All aspects of cleaning and disinfection
- Collaborate with the IPAC and occupational health and safety departments

# IPAC Considerations for Managing the Physical Environment, Waste, Laundry and Linen



# Physical Environment

- Housekeeping closets have:
  - Dedicated hand hygiene sinks, eye wash station
  - No personal belongings, food or beverages
- Soiled utility rooms are located close to point-of-care in resident care areas
  - Separated from clean supply storage
  - Have a dedicated hand hygiene sink



# Waste Management

- Policy covers collection, storage, transport, handling and disposal
- Waste is segregated at point of generation into hands-free containers with lids
- Waste handlers should:
  - be trained
  - wear appropriate PPE
  - have established routes for transporting waste

## Laundry and Linen Handling

- Policy covers the collection, transportation, handling, washing and drying
- Linen and laundry may be contaminated with bodily fluids, therefore:
  - Those handling linen are to wear appropriate PPE
  - Laundry and linen is to be handled in a manner that prevents environmental contamination
  - Gross soiling is to be removed prior to washing and drying
  - Cleaning cloths and mop heads are washed separately from resident laundry and linen
  - Manufacturer's instructions for time, temperatures, detergent are to be followed

# Considerations for Residents on Additional Precautions

- Residents on additional precautions do not require special practices related to laundry and waste management
  - Routine practices for handling laundry and waste are sufficient
  - Do not separate laundry and linens from residents on additional precautions
- Re-useable dishware and eating utensils can be used and routine cleaning protocols may be followed.

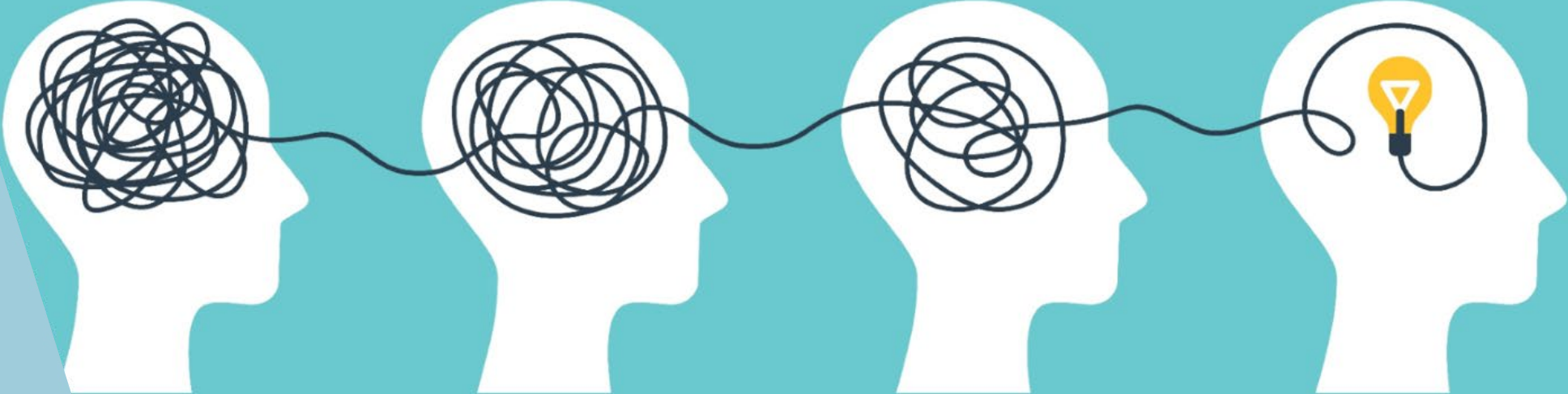
## Additional IPAC Resources

Continue to grow your knowledge and fill outstanding gaps with relevant sections from additional readings:

### Public Health Ontario:

- [Environmental Cleaning](#) (webpage)
- [Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for IPAC](#)
- [Ultraviolet \(UV\) light disinfection for SARS-CoV-2](#)
- [FAQ COVID-19: Electrostatic Spray Disinfection Systems](#)

# Questions and Answers



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