

The IPAC Link Letter

A monthly review of highlights and linked updates from the ever-changing world of Infection Prevention and Control to help you stay current and informed.

August 2020

News

[Virtual SASKPIC Fall Conference and AGM](#) –

September 18, 2020 at 1330 – 1530h

[National Infection Control Week](#): Infection Prevention and Control Beyond the Horizon – October 19 – 23, 2020

Highlights from the World of Infection Control

- With new professional sports teams, comes an [increase in influenza mortality](#).
- Find out more about the history behind the "[5 second rule](#)".
- Could this be the next pandemic? [Swine flu strain with pandemic potential](#).
- Rise in drug-resistant infections across Canada. Read more from the recently published [Canadian Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System Report](#).
- [Investigation](#) on possible COVID-19 transmission on board a flight with 335 passengers.
- [Increased rates of broken heart syndrome](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- What factors predict the likelihood of testing positive for [COVID-19](#)?
- [Importance of face masks](#). Find out how many out of 139 clients of two COVID-19 positive hairstylists were infected with the virus.
- [Men or women?](#) Who has the higher mortality risk during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- COVID-19 pandemic renews interest in disinfecting indoor-air with [UV light](#).
- [A COVID-19 Success Story In Rwanda](#): free testing and robot caregivers.
- [Vulnerability of global food system](#) could affect up to 132 million people during the pandemic.
- [Tackling ethical issues](#) during clinical trials in the search for a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Do vaccines do more than just protect against the targeted infection? [Non-specific health effects of vaccines](#).
- [Explore](#) what makes COVID-19 different from pandemic-causing influenza viruses and other epidemic-causing coronaviruses.
- Hundreds, if not, thousands of articles have been published pertaining to COVID-19. Remember to always [critically appraise studies seen in the literature](#).

Upcoming Webber Teleclasses

With our provincial subscription, if you miss the live Teleclass you can always go back and watch it at a later date.

<https://webbertraining.com/schedule1.php>

August 6, 2020: [Cleaning and Disinfection in the Era of SARS-COV-2](#)

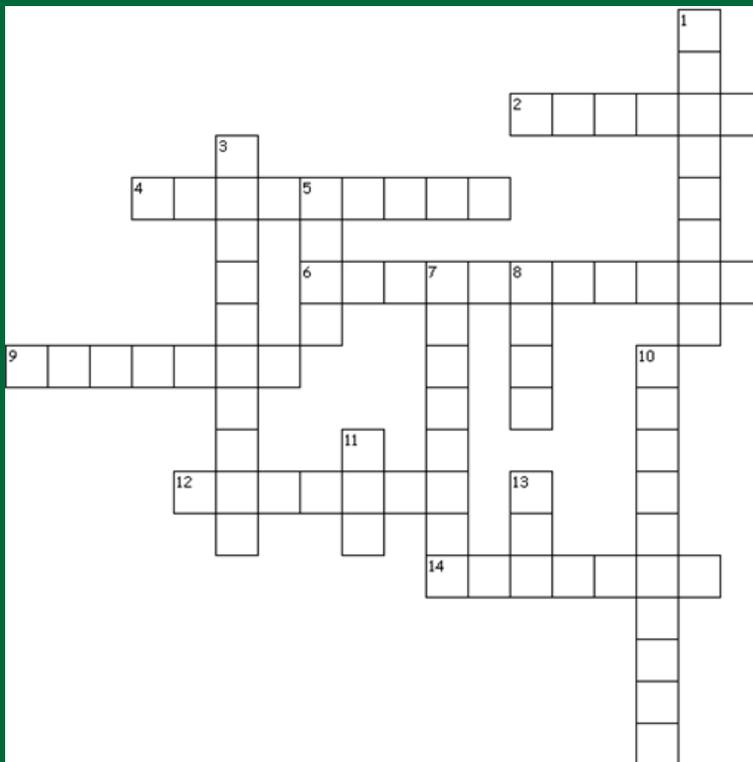
August 13, 2020: [Ahead – A Consolidated Framework for Behavioural Infectious Risks in Acute Care – Part 2](#)

August 18, 2020: [Polio Eradication in India and Takeaways from Others](#)

August 26, 2020: [Hospital Laundry and C. difficile Spore Inactivation](#)

Did You Know...

- **Hand Hygiene:** Three billion people – 40 per cent of the world’s population – do not have a place in their homes to wash their hands with water and soap. Three quarters of those who lack access to water and soap live in the world’s poorest countries and are amongst the most vulnerable: children and families living in informal settlements, migrant and refugee camps, or in areas of active conflict ([UNICEF, June 2020](#)).
- **Sanitation:** Poor sanitation causes up to 432,000 worldwide diarrheal deaths annually and is linked to the transmission of other diseases like cholera, dysentery, typhoid, hepatitis A and polio ([WHO, Nov 2019](#)).
- Using nature as an inspiration, **Antimicrobial Surface:** Using designs’ found on Cicada insect wings and sharkskin, essential oils as coatings, and natural antimicrobial metals like copper to help with environmental cleaning on counters and surgical equipment (<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200529-the-surfaces-that-kill-bacteria-and-viruses>).
- **Immunizations:** Immunization currently prevents 2-3 million deaths worldwide every year; an estimated 19.4 million children under the age of one year did not receive basic vaccines ([WHO, Dec 2019](#)).
- **Measles:** A highly contagious disease caused by a virus, which usually results in a high fever and rash, and can lead to blindness, encephalitis or death. By the end of 2018, 86% of children had received one dose of measles vaccine by their second birthday, and 171 countries had included a second dose as part of routine immunization and 69% of children received two doses of measles vaccine according to national immunization schedules (WHO, Dec 2019). It is a nationally reportable disease in Canada; in 2017, 45 cases were reported to Public Health Agency of Canada; 23 male and 22 female. Most of the cases were in the 25-29 age group ([PHAC Data website](#); [Canada Measles website](#)).



Across

2. Placing individuals with the same infection in the same area.
4. Separation of infected persons from others.
6. Primary way to prevent disease.
9. Particles of respirable size (< 10 µm) that can remain viable and airborne for extended periods.
12. Drug that produces immunity protecting individuals from certain diseases.
14. Condition of being free from all living microorganisms.

Down

1. Precautions used for TB.
3. Infection acquired in a hospital.
5. Acronym for a liquid, gel or foam formulation of alcohol used to reduce the number of microorganisms on hands.
7. Small particles that may be generated when a person coughs or sneezes.
8. Acronym for rooms designed to limit the spread of airborne microorganisms.
10. Proportion of a population who have a specific characteristic in a given time period.
11. Type of testing for N95 respirators.
13. Worn by healthcare workers for protection against an infectious hazard.