

# 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.

**November 2020**

## News

November is: [C. diff. Awareness Month](#) and [Fall Prevention Month](#)

[Medical Radiation Technologist \(MRT\) Week:](#)  
November 8 – 14, 2020

[World Pneumonia Day:](#)  
November 12, 2020

[World Diabetes Day:](#)  
November 14, 2020

[World Antimicrobial Awareness Week:](#) November 18 – 24, 2020

## Highlights from the World of Infection Control

- Highlights: role of the [faucet aerator kit on contamination](#) of drinking water.
- Operating room air delivery design to protect patient and surgical site – [greater concentration of particles](#) along walls of room.
- Notes from the field: [Botulism type B](#) after intravenous methamphetamine use.
- [Study](#) suggests overall patient outcomes have improved due to recognition and novel therapeutics for carbapenem resistant organisms.
- Characteristics of community-associated and healthcare-associated [Legionnaires' disease compared](#). Listen to an [interview](#) with a study author.
- [Large Dutch study](#) duly named the HANDSOME trial shows improved hand hygiene compliance in nursing homes.
- UK study shows high proportion of newly catheterized patients in the community lack active management plan for [catheter removal](#).
- [Micro case study](#): 83 year old female with a perisplenic abscess.
- [Large Swedish study](#), first of its kind to look at association of HPV vaccine and actual invasive cervical cancer risk.
- Scientist deliberately feeds himself to [infected mosquitoes](#) for science!
- [WHO](#) releases flu vaccine compositions for 2021 southern hemisphere influenza season.
- [Oropouche fever](#) outbreak reported in French Guiana, France.
- Experiences of nursing home residents during the pandemic: [life under COVID-19 restrictions](#).
- [Large Danish study](#) shows decreased risk for contracting COVID-19 for individuals with blood group O.
- Lessons learned from the largest Indigenous [COVID-19 outbreak](#).
- [Case series](#) analyzes data from COVID-19 outbreak aboard US aircraft carrier.
- Previously seen in children, case series reviews similar COVID-19 associated [multisystem inflammatory syndrome](#) in adults.
- [What's in your sewage?](#) Researchers find wastewater surveillance may predict community COVID-19.
- Early [immune responses](#) underlie some severe COVID-19 cases.
- Human-animal transmission: High proportions of [cats and dogs](#) acquired COVID-19 from their owners; COVID-19 infections between [humans and minks](#); lions and tigers infected at the [Bronx Zoo](#).

## 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/schedulep1.php>

**November 5, 2020:** [Infection Prevention and Control In Home Healthcare – Findings From Two Large Multi-method Studies](#)

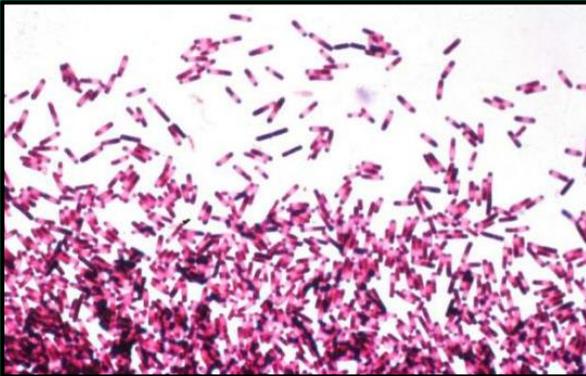
**November 12 & 26, 2020:** [Influenza Diagnosis, Transmission and Control In An Everyday Hospital Setting](#)

**November 19, 2020:** [Emerging Fungal Infections and Infection Prevention and Control](#)

## Webinars/Learning Opportunities

- Webinar: [COVID-19 vaccine development: an update](#)
- In case you missed it: [24<sup>th</sup> Annual Bug Day](#) is hosted by Health Sciences Centre Winnipeg
- CAMDR [membership offer](#), includes conference admission.
- [IPAC Canada National Conference 2021 Vision](#) – Dates to be determined
- Webinar: [Seasonal influenza 2020-21](#) NACI and AMMI Canada recommendations in the context of COVID-19
- Webinar Series: [Practical IPC considerations in the fight against COVID-19](#) includes archived sessions
- IPAC Canada [Self Assessment Audit Tool](#) – IPAC Canada membership is required

### Guess the Pathogen #1



**Etiology:** Gram-positive, spore-forming anaerobic bacillus that produces toxins, A and B.

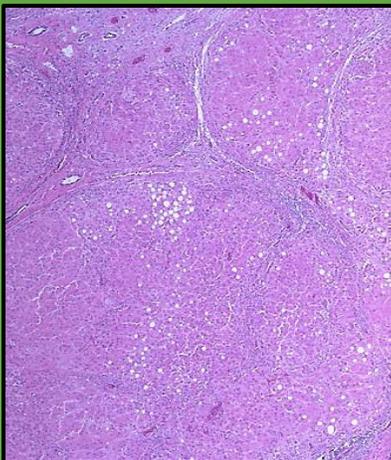
**Transmission:** Fecal-oral; hands of healthcare workers.

**Symptoms/clinical findings:** Abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea; pseudomembranous colitis; toxic megacolon.

**IPAC considerations:** Contact Precautions; disinfect environment with bleach; hand hygiene with soap and water.

For the answers and topic related articles, please visit our website here: <https://saskpic.ipac-canada.org/picns-link->

### Guess the Pathogen #2



**Etiology:** Family: Flaviviridae; Genus: *Hepacavirus*. Small (50nm), single-stranded, enveloped RNV virus.

**Incubation:** 2 weeks to 6 months.

**Symptoms/clinical findings:** Jaundice, fatigue, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, nausea and vomiting.

- Initial, acute infection – New infections are usually asymptomatic (~70%), and some experience acute hepatitis that does not lead to life-threatening disease; anorexia, abdominal discomfort, nausea and vomiting.
  - Approximately 30% spontaneously clear the virus within 6 months of infection without treatment.
- Chronic infection – hepatocellular carcinoma, cirrhosis (risk between 15% to 30% within 20 years).

**Transmission:** Parenterally by infected needles, blood transfusion, organ transplantation, contaminated medical equipment, tattoo and body piercing equipment. Less common routes of transmission are via sexual contact, sharing razors and/or toothbrushes, from mother to child during pregnancy/childbirth.

**IPAC considerations:** Routine Practices.