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

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.
**Webinars/Learning Opportunities**

- Webinar: [COVID-19 vaccine development: an update](#)
- In case you missed it: [24th 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/pics-link](https://saskpic.ipac-canada.org/pics-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.

If you have any interesting articles you would like to see in the IPAC Link Letter, please feel free to send them to Kevin.Duran@saskhealthauthority.ca or Rhianna.Matschke-Neufeld@saskhealthauthority.ca