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.

April 2021

Highlights from the World of Infection Control

- **Have you really cleaned your stethoscope?** Study looks at cleaning practices and organisms still present on HCW stethoscopes.
- 5 Second Rule: APIC podcast covers healthcare construction and water.
- **Research** underway to develop *Staphylococcus aureus* vaccine.
- Scientists summarize current understanding of acute flaccid myelitis (AFM) etiology and biennial transmission pattern → listen to an interview with an article author. Also, learn about Canada’s AFM surveillance program.
- **Results** from the first year of the Canadian Lyme Sentinel Network. Tick surveillance, eTick, and Saskatchewan specific information.
- COVID-19 outbreak among physicians at a Canadian curling bonspiel.
- The problem of microbial dark matter in neonatal sepsis.
- Multidrug-resistant *Candida auris* infections in critically ill COVID-19 patients, India.
- Study looks at roadblocks and other factors that impact sustainability of antibiotic stewardship programs in nursing homes.
- Role of hospital floors, patient socks, and bedding in spread of healthcare pathogens.
- **Highlights** from ID Week 2020.
- Bathrooms, staff areas, hallways? Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 air contamination in hospital settings recently published in *JAMA*.
- *S. aureus ICU pneumonia* risk higher when patients are colonized at admission.
- Universal face shield and reduction of SARS-CoV-2 infections in a quaternary care centre.
- Crowded LTC homes: Investigation shows deadlier COVID-19 outbreaks in nursing homes with shared bathrooms and bedrooms.
- **Microbiology Case Study**: Blood stream infection in a 77 year old patient – is it Really from Mosquitoes?
- COVID-19 most contagious in first 5 days of illness.
- Issues and confusion around naming COVID VoCs (Variants of Concerns).
- Public Health Ontario summarizes key features of influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and other common respiratory viruses. *Open in Google Chrome*
- WHO reports lower than expected numbers for influenza globally.
Webinars/Learning Opportunities

- CAMDR Conference: Drilling Down to Basics & Rising to the Challenge Virtual Exhibit Hall
- Webinar: PHAC: COVID-19 Vaccines Emerging Issues: Delayed Injection Site Reactions
- Free Long-term care ICP training course developed by the CDC.
- Webinar: Women’s issues in pandemic times: How COVID-19 has exacerbated gender inequities for women in Canada and around the World.
- Webinar: IPAC Canada Reprocessing Interest Group: Critical Appraisal — Login to IPAC Canada member site is required

Vaccine Quiz

Which of the following is NOT a vaccine-preventable disease?
☐ Cervical cancer
☐ Polio
☐ Hepatitis B
☐ Asthma
☐ Measles

For the answer and more questions, visit WHO: How much do you know about immunization?

The first vaccine developed was against smallpox.
☐ True
☐ False

For the answer and more questions, visit University of Rochester Medical Center: Vaccination Quiz

Heather Whitestone, who was crowned Miss America in 1994, was deaf because of...
☐ a smallpox vaccine reaction
☐ a Hib infection
☐ a DPT vaccine reaction
☐ a MMR vaccine reaction

For the answer and more questions, visit Vaxopedia: Immunization Quiz

In the early 2000s, what two illnesses caused the most deaths of children worldwide?
☐ Meningococcal disease and smallpox
☐ Varicella (Chickenpox) and measles
☐ Pneumonia and severe diarrhea
☐ Influenza and diphtheria

For the answer and more questions, visit Vaccine Trivia: Just the vax

For more vaccine related articles, please visit our website here: https://saskpic.ipac-canada.org/picns-link-letter.php

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