

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.

June 2021

News

June is: [Canadian Men's Health Month](#) and [Thyroid Month](#)

[World Environmental Day](#):
June 5, 2021

[National Health and Fitness Day](#): June 5, 2021

[National Spinal Cerebrospinal Fluid \(CSF\) Leak Awareness Week](#): June 6 - 13, 2021

[International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking](#): June 26, 2021

Highlights from the World of Infection Control

- The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare acquired infections with [multidrug resistant organisms](#).
- Health care personnel: Interim estimates show [effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines](#) among this group, while a survey demonstrates [acceptance, hesitancy, and refusal](#).
- Disposable or Reusable? The [Medical gowns debate](#).
- [Video-based hand hygiene audits](#), the next gold standard?
- [Prolonged PPE use](#) and impact on healthcare workers.
- What do yogurt and beer have in common? Microbes! [5 Second Rule](#) reminds us of the important role microorganisms play in our day-to-day lives.
- April 2021 issue of [CCDR](#) reflects on COVID-19 and a year into the pandemic.
- Cookie dough, anyone?... review from a [multistate outbreak of E.coli](#).
- Planning a post-pandemic get away? Think twice before getting into an [untreated hot spring](#).
- Deja vu? Is [Vaccine history](#) repeating itself?
- COVID recovered and out of the woods? [Another threat looming](#) for India's COVID survivors...
- A [Centenarian](#) COVID survivor's courage and advice for the wary unvaccinated.
- Puzzle Pieces? A [COVID variant explanation](#)? I'm in!
- [Preserving](#) and [expanding](#) the IP&C workforce; commentaries discuss possible challenges ahead. [United States] National supports needed for ICP [retention strategies](#).
- Studies review COVID-19 and link to [poor maternal, neonatal outcomes](#), while experts weigh in on [vaccination in pregnant and nursing women](#).
- A case of misdiagnosed [severe itching](#).
- COVID-19 vaccines vs variants—determining [how much immunity is enough](#).
- [Contaminated Hospital Water](#)?! And the subsequent outbreak investigation.
- Medieval elites used [handwashing](#) as a shrewd 'power play'.
- [Canadian COVID-19 vaccine makers'](#) next challenge: testing their product.

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>

June 16, 2021: [From Policy to Practice – Implementing Government Directed Policy & Implications for Infection Control Practice](#)

June 24, 2021: [Continuous Active Anti-Viral Coatings](#)

Guess the Pathogen

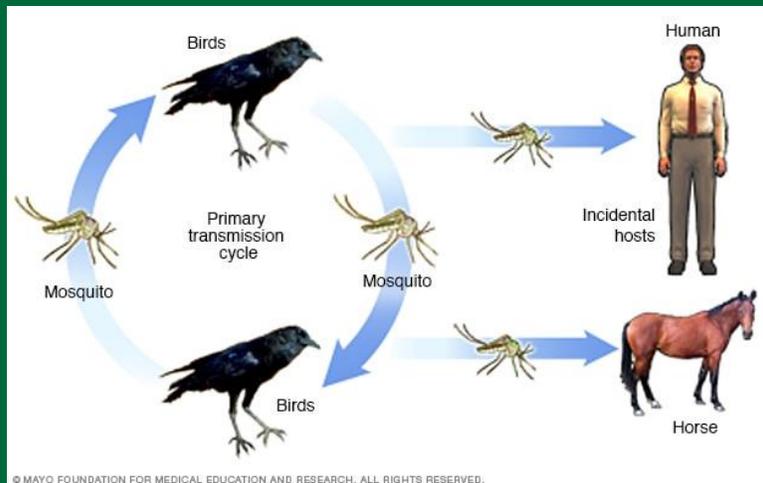


Figure. Adapted from [Mayo Clinic](https://www.mayoclinic.org).

Hints:

1. Infectious agent:
 - Arbovirus (portmanteau for **Arthropod-borne virus**).
 - Member of the genus *Flavivirus*, and *Flaviviridae* family.
 - Icosahedral, enveloped virus, 40 to 50 nm in diameter.
 - Single-stranded, positive-sense RNA genome.
2. Epidemiology:
 - 1937 – Discovered in a region of Uganda.
 - 1999 – First detected in North America.
 - 2002 – First known human case in Saskatchewan.
 - In temperate regions, most human infections occur in summer and early fall.
3. Surveillance:
 - Activities to determine risk/presence may include:
 - Mosquito collection and testing.
 - Avian and equine morbidity/mortality surveillance.
 - Reportable communicable disease in Saskatchewan.
4. Transmission:
 - *Culex* mosquitoes; in Saskatchewan, the primary vector is the *C. tarsalis* mosquito.
 - Birds are a primary reservoir. Humans are generally considered a dead-end host.
 - Human-to-human transmission has occurred via breast milk, organ transplantation, blood transfusion.
5. Incubation:
 - Typically 2-6 days, but may extend to 14 days (or longer in immunocompromised).
6. Presentation:
 - Estimated 70-80% of human cases are subclinical or asymptomatic.
 - Typically mild illness lasting 3 to 6 days.
 - Symptoms may include fever with chills, rash, headache, myalgia, malaise.
 - Non-specific symptoms can include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, sore throat, cough.
 - Neurologic illness can occur, including meningitis, encephalitis, and flaccid paralysis.
7. Clinical assessment and management:
 - Serum or cerebrospinal fluid testing to detect specific IgM antibodies.
 - IgM antibodies usually detectable 3 to 8 days after onset of illness, and persist for 30 to 90 days.
 - Supportive care.
8. Prevention:
 - Routine Practices.
 - Vector reduction.
 - Personal protection using mosquito repellents.
 - Donor screening (i.e., blood, cell, tissue, organ) per regulatory requirements.

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