



HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 1.6

DEPARTMENT: *Infection Control*

SUBJECT: *Education*

APPROVAL DATE: April 2004

REVISION DATE: March 2016; March 2017

REVIEW DATE: November 2018

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POLICY:

To provide an education program for all staff to ensure that they have the knowledge and skills to maintain infection prevention and control measures.

PROCEDURE:

The Manager of Resident Care in collaboration with the Homes Education Co-ordinator will coordinate the development and provision of the annual education programs in infection prevention and control emphasizing the following:

- Routine practices
- Hand Hygiene
- Additional precautions (airborne, droplet, contact)
- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment.(PPE's)
- Environmental Cleaning
- Modes of transmission
- The importance of adherence to infection prevention and control protocols.
- Staff surveillance and Immunization

Education will be offered to all staff including volunteers, physicians and other Independent Practitioners. Non-staff (visitors, family members, community and professional groups) will be offered appropriate education using a variety of venues such as, Infection Control Week/Health and Safety Week, poster displays, newsletters, etc.

Public Health and other appropriate external partnerships will be asked to participate in the development and provision of the Infection Prevention and Control education.

Other topics of education will be provided on an as needed basis and as per policy and procedure updates to ensure staff are current on industry infection prevention and control initiatives.

The following are recommended minimum guidelines as per PIDAC.

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Box 3: Education for all Staff and Volunteers

Education for all Staff and Volunteers

Education/orientation programs for all staff and volunteers (as applicable) should include information on:

- The effectiveness, benefits and risks of influenza immunization.
- Information about respiratory virus (including influenza) morbidity, mortality, transmission, as well as:
 - Prevention of influenza, and the requirement for annual influenza vaccination
 - Mechanisms to reduce disease transmission, for example respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene
- Respiratory infection outbreak management and exclusion policies of the home:
- A review of policies related to staff and visitor illness recommendations (persons experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness should not be working/visiting the home).
- A review of influenza immunization and exclusion policies for staff.
- A review of influenza immunization policies and recommendations for family members and visitors (i.e. those experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness should not be visiting the LTCH).
- Respiratory etiquette.
- A review of IPAC core competencies and resources:
 - Routine Practices and Additional Precautions, including use of personal protective equipment (PPE), cleaning and disinfecting requirements and environmental cleaning, as per PIDAC documents.
 - Just Clean Your Hands, including your Four Moments for Hand Hygiene (HH).
 - Chain of transmission: modes of infection transmission.

Education of Residents, Residents' Families, Private Pay Caregivers and Visitors

Topics to include in education programs for all residents, residents' families, private pay caregivers, and visitors:

- A review of influenza immunization policies and recommendations for residents' families, private pay caregivers, and visitors (i.e. those experiencing symptoms of respiratory illness should not be visiting the LTCH).
- Respiratory etiquette:
 - All individuals are advised to practice respiratory etiquette when coughing or sneezing:
 - I. Turn head away from others;
 - II. Cover the nose and mouth with tissue; or sneeze into your sleeve;
 - III. Discard tissues immediately after use into waste; and
 - IV. Perform hand hygiene (HH) immediately after disposal of tissues.

These are minimum requirements for education; the LTCH can provide more information, at their discretion.