



## HOMES AND SENIORS SERVICES

### **POLICY & PROCEDURE NUMBER: 1.1**

**DEPARTMENT:** *Infection Control* **SUBJECT:** *Infection Prevention and Control Philosophy & Goals*

**APPROVAL DATE:** April 2004

**REVISION DATE:** March 2016 & 2017; Nov. 2022

**REVIEW DATE:** November 2018; December 2019; Dec. 2020

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### **PURPOSE:**

To provide a safe environment for residents, staff, volunteers and visitors through prevention, control, and surveillance of community and nosocomial infections.

A combination of routine practices, additional precautions and Point of Care risk assessment will be used to create effective precautions and control.

### **INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM**

### **GOALS:**

- To provide direction, surveillance and education and any other standard/protocol issued to reduce transmission of communicable disease or disease of public health significance.
- To promote staff awareness of the purpose and objectives of infection control, through the use of available resources and educational programs.
- Establish and update policies and procedures and review current standards and protocols dealing with infection prevention and control regularly to reflect the most current medical evidence and best practice.
- Develop, implement/conduct routine audits and provide follow up related to audit outcomes.
- Review Infection Control statistics and recommend appropriate action.
- To oversee the development of staff education programs for Infection Control.
- To maintain a clean and healthy environment for staff, residents, and visitors.
  
- Utilization of an ethical framework and precautionary principle for the development, implementation and evaluation of the IPAC program incorporating the following key principles:
  - Fairness
  - Equity
  - Transparency
  - Consideration of available evidence
  - Consideration of impacts of decisions on residents and staff
  - Resident quality of life as a primary driver



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- Risk relative to reward of key decisions
  - Safety

### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- All staff are responsible for, and will be knowledgeable about their role in infection control and safe working practices; and, as such will participate in the implementation of the infection prevention and control program.
- Management supports the right of the worker to be protected and informed.

### **EDUCATION/ORIENTATION:**

All staff will receive a program review during orientation, annually and as required addressing:

- Waste Disposal
- Hand Hygiene
- Additional precautions (airborne, droplet, contact)
- Signs and symptoms of infectious diseases
- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE) including selection, application, removal and disposal.
- Point of Care Risk Assessment
- Environmental Cleaning and disinfection practices
- Modes of transmission
- The importance of adherence to infection prevention and control protocols.
- Staff surveillance
- Resident Surveillance
- Respiratory Etiquette
- Handling and disposing of biological and clinical waste including used personal protective equipment
- Reporting requirements
- Immunization

Additionally:

- Educational programs will be scheduled annually and as required.



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- Education will be offered to all staff, as well as volunteers, residents/family members, visitors, contracted service providers and support workers as appropriate.
- Education will include a variety of venues such as in-services, posters, online, etc.
- Public Health and other appropriate agencies (IPAC Hub) will be consulted in the development and provision of this education as needed.

### **RESOURCES:**

Elgin County Homes will provide all staff members with the necessary information, training and personal protective equipment to perform their jobs safely in accordance with the guidelines in the Health Protection and Promotion Act, Ministry of Health/Ministry of Long-Term Care legislation and guidelines, Occupational Health and Safety Act and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

- Communication of all infection related issues will follow policy/legislation.
- Additional resources will be accessed as required (e.g. Medical Director/Public Health/IPAC Hub/PIDAC/PHO).
- Policy and Procedures are available online, hard copy manual in the Home, and are updated regularly.
- Educational programs will be posted to Surge learning and assigned to staff members.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:**

- Surveillance and analysis of data:
  - Audit results
  - Outbreak surveillance sheets
  - Annual education reviews
  - Line Listing Reports- Resident/Staff
  - Monthly infection control statistics and records
  - Infection/Antibiotic Use Reports

### **PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REVIEW:**

- Home infection control statistics and implementation and evaluation are reported to the Infection Prevention and Control Committee, CQI Team and the Professional Advisory Committee.



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- Home infection control statistics are reviewed at least monthly to detect trends for the purpose of reducing the incidence of infection and outbreaks.
- The IPAC program is evaluated (based on evidence based best practice and current medical evidence) and updated annually in accordance with legislation. A written record of the evaluation shall be kept and include the date of evaluation, names of persons who participated in the evaluation, as summary of the changes made and the date that those changes were implemented.

References:

- Fixing Long-Term Care Act, 2021
- Ontario Regulation 246/22
- IPAC Standard for Long-Term Care Home; April 2022