

# CENTRAL EAST IPAC HUB

Newsletter – January 2025

SAFE TODAY, HEALTHY TOMORROW:  
Together in Infection Prevention.



## Exciting News! HKPR & PPH Merger Update

Effective January 1, 2025, HKPR and PPH will merge into a unified organization. Operations will remain geographically organized, ensuring services continue as usual for HKPR and PPH districts. This change will **not** affect the delivery of the Central East IPAC Hub, which will continue its support without interruption.

## Kick Off the New Year with an IPAC Audit

As we start a new year, reach out to your IPAC Hub lead to schedule your annual supportive IPAC audit. Let's work together to strengthen your facility's infection prevention practices!

## Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) Meetings

Don't forget to invite your IPAC Hub lead to your quarterly LTCH PAC meetings!

## NEW! Virtual Office Hours



Optional virtual office hours starting in January to offer a space to connect with IPAC Hub Leads.

**Date:** Every Tuesday

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. -3:00 p.m.

[CLICK HERE](#) to Join!

Join us at our first session on  
**January 21, 2025!**

## Coming Soon!

A new Best Practice Guideline for Infection Prevention and Control in Long-Term Care is on the way! This comprehensive resource will provide updated recommendations to support effective IPAC practices in your facility. Stay tuned for its release.

## Community of Practice

The first CoP session for congregate living settings (group homes, shelters, and supportive housing) will be held in February and the next CoP session for LTCHs and RHs is planned for March. Stay tuned for a save-the-date announcement with more details.

## Educational Opportunities

IPAC Canada Virtual Workshop

[Encore IPAC Surveillance Workshop for Long Term Care](#)

**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2025

**Time:** 12:00 p.m.

**Duration:** 3 hours

**Deadline:** Register by **Friday, February 21, 2025**

## Stay Alert and Stay Safe

Subscribe to HKPR's community outbreak alerts [here](#) to receive real-time updates on community outbreaks directly to your inbox. Stay informed to protect yourself, your family, and the broader community.

For updates on facility-specific outbreaks, visit [Peterborough Public Health's page](#).

# FAQs

## How do I obtain PCR or RAT tests?

### HKPR

Pick up respiratory and enteric outbreak kits at HKPR Health Unit offices, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You do **not** need to call ahead.

### PPH

**NEW:** Call 705-743-1000 ext. 511 or email [infectiousdiseases@peterboroughpublichealth.ca](mailto:infectiousdiseases@peterboroughpublichealth.ca) to place an order.

PCR tests require a completed respiratory requisition. Use Dr. Bocking's requisition for HKPR and Dr. Piggott's for PPH. Please also include the outbreak number provided by the health unit. Order Rapid Antigen Test kits (RAT) via the [PPE Supply Portal](#).

## What are the steps for admitting a new/hospitalized resident during outbreak?

Health Unit approval is not required for admissions/transfers **from** acute care, but consultation is recommended when IPAC advice or risk mitigation is needed. Transfers to hospital should receive Medical Transfer authorization from PTAC.

HKPR facilities can access the repatriation tool on the external LTCH/RH SharePoint site. Facilities in the PPH region can find the repatriation tool on the [PPH website here](#).

## When can staff return to work after illness?

Symptomatic staff should self-isolate at home and not go into work. Staff should report being ill to their employer.

### Respiratory Illness

- Staff should immediately leave work and self-isolate until symptoms have been improving for 24 hours, and no fever is present.
- For 10 days after the date of symptom onset, staff should adhere to workplace measures for reducing risk of transmission (i.e., masking).

### Gastrointestinal Illness

- Staff should immediately leave work.
- Depending on your facility's policies, staff may be asked not to return to work until 48 hours symptom-free.

For further detail, please refer to the Recommendations for Outbreak Management. Feel free to reach out to your IPAC Hub lead or email [ipachub@peterboroughpublichealth.ca](mailto:ipachub@peterboroughpublichealth.ca) with concerns or queries.

## Infectious Disease Dashboard

Stay informed about the latest infectious disease trends and outbreaks in high-risk settings. To assist with this, HKPR and Peterborough Public Health provide up-to-date data on lab-confirmed cases for 75 infectious diseases and the number of outbreaks declare.

[For HKPR District](#)

[For Peterborough County](#)

# Health Unit UPDATES

- Continue to offer COVID-19, Flu and RSV vaccines to eligible residents throughout the respiratory season.
- COVID-19, Flu and RSV can be co-administered to enable for faster protection.
- Staff should be encouraged to get vaccinated for COVID-19 and Flu. This is especially important as outbreak season tends to increase significantly after the holidays and being vaccinated ensures staff can continue to work.
- Ensure ALL doses of the COVID-19 vaccine are entered into the COVAX database.
- Store all publicly funded vaccines in an inspected fridge according to [Vaccine Storage and Handling Guidelines](#)

## Helpful Resources

- [Public Health Ontario Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings, 2024](#)
- [Central East Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) Hub](#)

## Contact Information

	HKPR	Peterborough Public Health
<b>Outbreak Reporting</b>	<b>During business hours:</b> <a href="mailto:outbreaks@hkpr.on.ca">outbreaks@hkpr.on.ca</a> <b>Outside of business hours:</b> 1-888-255-7839	<b>During business hours:</b> <a href="#">Outbreak form</a> <b>Outside of business hours:</b> 705-760-8127
<b>Vaccine Information</b>	<a href="mailto:immunization@hkpr.on.ca">immunization@hkpr.on.ca</a>	<a href="mailto:schoolvaccines@peterboroughpublichealth.ca">schoolvaccines@peterboroughpublichealth.ca</a>
<b>Outbreak Alerts</b>	Click <a href="#">here</a> to sign up.	Click <a href="#">here</a> to view updates.
<b>IPAC Inquiries</b>		<a href="mailto:ipachub@peterboroughpublichealth.ca">ipachub@peterboroughpublichealth.ca</a>

## Central East IPAC Hub Team

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