

## What is Infection Control?

Using infection prevention and control (IPC) practices in all of the care we provide to our patients and residents minimizes the risk that they will develop an infection. Preventing infections is everyone's responsibility. Elements of good infection prevention and control practices include:

- 1) Frequent hand cleaning (using soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub)
- 2) Cover your cough or sneeze (cough or sneeze into a tissue or your upper arm)
- 3) Keep your immunizations up to date and get a flu shot every fall
- 4) Stay home when you are ill, especially if you have a fever, cough, nausea/vomiting, or diarrhea
- 5) Be alert for possible outbreaks of infectious illness and act early

## You can contact PICNet to:

- Ask for advice on infection control
- Find out how to improve your knowledge of infection prevention and control
- Propose a project related to an element of infection control
- Request an Education Fund grant
- Request training materials tailored to your work site
- Find out how to enter into the field of infection control
- Learn more about the free resources we have available, and discuss any additional resources you would like
- Join our Community of Practice

## Community of Practice

With support and guidance from its Scientific Operations Advisory Committee, PICNet's success is a result of the combined work of a wide range of healthcare providers. These include:

- Healthcare providers
- Infection Control Professionals
- Epidemiologists
- Public Health
- Environmental Health
- Occupational Health
- ...and more.

You can join the Community of Practice at  
[www.picnet.ca/join](http://www.picnet.ca/join)

By joining the Community of Practice, you will receive infection control news, notifications of new reports and guidelines, invitations to our educational events, and other IPC information.



# PICNet

## PROVINCIAL INFECTION CONTROL NETWORK OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

A program of the Provincial Health Services Authority



## Fewer infections, better healthcare

1001 West Broadway, Suite 504  
Vancouver, BC V6H 4B1  
Telephone: (604) 875-4844  
Email: [picnet@phsa.ca](mailto:picnet@phsa.ca)  
Website: [www.picnet.ca](http://www.picnet.ca)



## About PICNet

The Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia (PICNet) is a provincially supported infection control network that works to reduce healthcare-associated infections in BC healthcare facilities.

Collaborating with our partners in the BC health authorities, the Ministry of Health, other related organizations, and with our Community of Practice, PICNet provides leadership on province-wide **surveillance** initiatives, the development and promotion of **evidence-based practices**, and the creation of **educational resources**.

PICNet's resources are freely accessible for all

## Surveillance

PICNet coordinates a provincial program that monitors healthcare-associated infections in acute care facilities across BC. Our current surveillance program includes:

- *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI)
- MRSA (methicillin-resistant *staphylococcus aureus*)
- CPOs (carbapenemase-producing organisms)
- Hand hygiene compliance

Provincial reports are published quarterly, and are available on our website:

[www.picnet.ca/surveillance](http://www.picnet.ca/surveillance)



## Guidelines and Toolkits

PICNet develops evidence-based guidelines and toolkits as resources for health authorities, IPC programs, and healthcare providers seeking practice recommendations. Examples are:

- Gastrointestinal infection outbreak management
- Prevention and control of antibiotic resistant organisms (ARO)
- *C. difficile* toolkit
- Respiratory infection outbreaks
- Home and community healthcare
- Residential care infection control

All of our guidelines can be found on our website:

[www.picnet.ca/guidelines](http://www.picnet.ca/guidelines)



## Education and Training

PICNet enables people to stay current on key infection control topics by providing:

- Annual educational conference
- Workshops and in-services
- Online educational modules
- Webber Training teleclasses

## Online Education Modules

PICNet has online education modules aimed at infection control practitioners, medical residents, point-of-care staff, and services such as housekeeping, kitchen, and security.

- Infection control basics
- Hand hygiene
- Surgical site infections
- Central venous catheters
- Personal protective equipment (PPE)

[www.picnet.ca/education](http://www.picnet.ca/education)

## Resources

The PICNet website has lots of free, downloadable resources such as:

- Posters
- Fact sheets
- Educational games
- Videos
- Training ideas

You can find them all at:

[www.picnet.ca/resources](http://www.picnet.ca/resources)

