

CENTRAL SOUTH ONTARIO INFECTION CONTROL NETWORK NEWS

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What is the Central South Infection Control Network (CSICN)?

- The CSICN is a Ministry of Health and Long Term Care funded initiative to maximize coordination and integration of activities related to the prevention, surveillance and control of infection across the health care continuum on a regular basis
- The Network staff currently consists of a Regional Coordinator (Adrienne Brown), and Medical Coordinator (Dr. Maureen Cividino). A position for Administrative Assistant is expected to be filled shortly.
- There is a 13 member Network Steering Committee comprised of representatives from all health care sectors from across Central South Ontario.

Who are the members?

- The CSICN is a voluntary affiliation of health care institutions, facilities, providers and organizations designed to support the cooperation in and collaboration for infection prevention and control activities in the region.
- Eligible members include, but are not limited to Public Health Units, Acute Care Facilities, Non-Acute Care Facilities, Long Term Care Facilities, First Responders and Community Providers.



What geographic area is covered by the CSICN?

- The CSICN includes Hamilton, Niagara, Burlington, Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk.
- This area corresponds to the boundaries established for our Local Health Integration Network (LHIN 4).



Are there other networks?

- Yes, CSICN is one of 4 pilot networks that have been established by the MOHLTC. By the end of 2007 all 14 networks will be operational. The other pilot networks are: Champlain (Ottawa), Kingston area and Northwest.

Who is the Network Accountable to?

- The Network Coordinator and Steering Committee are accountable to the MOHLTC for the program operation and outcomes.

What are some of the benefits of being part of this network?

- There are many benefits to being a part of CSICN.
- Access to expert resources or referral to appropriate expertise, networking, sharing of information and resources, collaboration for policy and procedure development, facilitation of education are some of the main benefits.



What are the responsibilities for my facility or agency when we join the network?

- You will be asked to participate in a needs assessment survey to determine infection prevention and control resources in the region, participate in surveillance activities, communicate pertinent infection prevention and control issues and participate in evaluation of the network.

How do I contact the Network?

- Phone 905 541-0097
- Fax 905 560-2073
- Email ambic05@msn.com or brownad@hhsc.ca



SOME FEATURES IN THIS ISSUE

• Network FAQs
• Flu Season Is Upon Us
• Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI)
• Contact Information
• Benefits of Being Part of the Network
• Facility/Agency Responsibility when Joining the Network

Febrile Respiratory Illness (FRI)

- Revised Febrile Illness (FRI) documents from Ministry of Health and Long Term Care is now available on www.health.gov.on.ca website.
- This document replaces the previous standards for FRI for acute care, non-acute, community settings in non-outbreak and the high-risk procedures in non-outbreak settings.
- The document deals with droplet spread respiratory illness. The main changes are: streamlined reporting mechanisms for FRI, clearer instructions for FRI screening (active and passive), with abbreviated screening questions and information on discontinuing precautions.
- There is also clarification of need for negative pressure air flow for specific high risk procedures, and abbreviated screening question format and information on discontinuing precautions.

Pandemic Flu Planning

- All health care agencies and facilities should be engaged with their community partners and local health units in preparing plans for the coming pandemic.
- Those facilities and agencies who are developing pandemic flu plans are encouraged to share them with their colleagues. The CSICN is available to assist in addressing issues related to infection control in the pandemic flu plan. The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care plan can be found on www.health.gov.on.ca.
- The five Public Health Units within CSICN are actively planning and pandemic information is available on the Hamilton website at www.hamilton.ca/phcs and the Halton website at www.region.halton.on.ca/health

Upcoming Educational Conferences

May 6-10, 2006: The 2006 Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA-Canada) annual national conference is being held May 6-10 in London Ontario. For registration details and information on abstract submission go to www.chica.org.

Important Memberships to Have!

- CHICA-Canada is the national organization for infection prevention and control in Canada. There are individual and institutional memberships available.
- With your membership you will receive the Canadian Journal of Infection Control (CJIC)-published four times per year and an annual Membership Directory and source guide which is an excellent source for networking and accessing infection prevention and control resources.
- When you join CHICA-Canada you can also join our region's CHICA Chapter – CHICA-HANDIC. The Hamilton and Neighbouring Districts Infection Control Group (HANDIC). More information is available at www.chica.org/handic/index.html

PROMED.... Infectious disease news in your e-mailbox each day!



- You can subscribe for free at www.Promedmail.org. Each day you will receive emails on current world infectious disease events such as Avian flu, MRSA and other sentinel events.
- As cited on this website: “ProMED-mail-the Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases- is an Internet-based reporting system dedicated to rapid global dissemination of information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and acute exposures to toxins that affect human health, including those in animals and in plants grown for food or animal feed.
- ProMED-mail is open to all sources and free of political constraints. Sources of information include media reports, official reports, online summaries, local observers, and others.
- Reports are often contributed by ProMED-mail subscribers. A team of expert human, plant, and animal disease moderators screen, review, and investigate reports before posting to the network. Reports are distributed by email to direct subscribers and posted immediately on the ProMED-mail web site. ProMED-mail currently reaches over 30,000 subscribers in at least 150 countries.”

Flu Season is Upon Us!



- In Ontario there is a universal influenza vaccine program which offers free influenza (flu) vaccine to all persons in Ontario over the age of two.
- Flu Season runs from late October to April. Flu vaccine is the safest and best way to prevent getting the flu. Health care workers are a high-risk group and should receive flu vaccine to protect their parents, clients or residents and also to protect them from getting the flu.
- For further information on flu vaccine and influenza go to the websites for the five health unit offices in our region: Hamilton www.hamilton.ca/phcs Halton (Burlington) www.region.halton.on.ca/health Niagara www.regional.niagara.on.ca/government/health Brant County www.bchu.org Haldimand-Norfolk www.haldimand-norfolk.org

C-MRSA in Canada

- Community Acquired MRSA (C-MRSA) Working Sessions were held in Toronto on October 27, 28th to move towards a consensus document for adult and pediatric populations.
- For C-MRSA review articles visit <http://www.ccar-ccra.com/english/datetime-e.shtml> Look under Publications – October and August 2005.
- You will want to familiarize yourself with this emerging community pathogen and how it differs from healthcare associated MRSA.

