

August, 2010

The Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs) are excited to announce their transition to the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (OAHPP). The role of the RICNs is closely aligned with OAHPP's mandate and supports OAHPP as a hub organization that will link researchers, public health practitioners and front-line healthworkers.

RICNs will be part of OAHPP's Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Team. The Provincial RICN Manager is Cathy Egan, who coordinated the WWICN, and previously worked in public health.

This transition means that the important work of the RICNs at the local level will be part of a coordinated and integrated provincial strategy. As part of OAHPP, RICNs will have better access to scientific and technical expertise and in turn, will be able to keep the agency up-to-date on issues that are relevant to the field to facilitate knowledge exchange and training.

Part of the transition will be to integrate all communications systems, which will result in a change of email address, phone numbers, websites, and over time, possible changes in physical location. Stakeholders will be notified well in advance of any changes to minimize disruption with connections to your local RICN.

OAHPP is an arm's-length government agency dedicated to protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians and reducing inequities in health. OAHPP provides expert scientific and technical support relating to infection prevention and control; surveillance and epidemiology; health promotion, chronic disease and injury prevention; environmental and occupational health; health emergency preparedness; and public health laboratory services to support health providers, the public health system and partner ministries in making informed decisions and taking informed action to improve the health and security of Ontarians.

We look forward to working with you in our new role as the local representatives of OAHPP.