

**Ministry of Health**

Mental Health and Addictions Division

Mental Health and Addiction Programs Branch

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**Ministère de la Santé**

Division des services de santé mentale et de lutte  
contre les dépendances

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January 7, 2021

**MEMORANDUM TO:** Transfer Payment Recipients (TPRs) with Congregate Care Programs

**FROM:** Mary Mannella  
Director, Mental Health and Addiction Branch  
Ministry of Health

**RE:** Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Implementation

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As you are aware, in preparation for future waves of COVID-19, and to support recovery planning efforts, the Ministry of Health (MOH) is leading the implementation of Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hubs to support congregate care settings.

I am writing today to inform you of this model and that collectively we are moving forward with implementation across the province.

The broader model sees Ontario Health (OH) on behalf of MOH leading the oversight of the Hubs at a local/regional level. Through their respective Hubs, congregate care living sites will be able to access IPAC expertise, collaborative assistance and just-in-time advice, guidance and one-to-one support on infection prevention and management practices. Hubs are to be based within locally designated hospitals and Public Health Units, although specific Hub leads and boundaries will vary across the province. Implementation times for the Hubs will also vary across the province based on local planning and readiness.

In addition to the Hub resources, there is a role for individual congregate care setting providers in their IPAC planning and preparedness. Individual agencies providing congregate care programs are expected to:

- Have in place and maintain for their congregate care settings, an IPAC / Occupational Health and Safety program, or related policies and procedures, that meet standards for the sector;

- Maintain knowledge of IPAC and COVID-specific guidance / policies / direction with their sector;
- Ensure staff complete Public Health Ontario's IPAC training, or related equivalent;
- Proactively identify gaps in settings through an internal evaluation process or assessment, and have the policies to support staff auditing;
- Have core policies and plans to enable IPAC best practices during regular operation as well as during an outbreak, such as methods to increase environmental cleaning, communication protocols, cohorting plans and processes to obtain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other critical supplies;
- Establish a connection with their local IPAC Hub to understand information flowing from the Hub, as well as to share IPAC-related information on gaps, trends and/or needs;
- Ensure internal awareness of how to access the IPAC Hub and resources; and
- Remain accountable for IPAC leadership within their own congregate care settings.

To support ease of access, please find the link to Public Health Ontario's COVID-19 Resources for Congregate Living Settings which includes the recently re-released IPAC Training modules: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/congregate-living-settings-resources>

Key planning activities and discussions with sector partners will be unfolding in the coming weeks. We encourage you to participate in these discussions and next steps as a valued partner in our collective response to COVID-19.

Please feel free to contact your MOH contact with any questions you may have:

<b>Sector:</b>	<b>Ministry Contact:</b>
<b>Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH)</b>	MOH Program Supervisor
<b>Home for Special Care (HSC)</b>	Glenna Smith at <a href="mailto:Glenna.smith@ontario.ca">Glenna.smith@ontario.ca</a>

Thank you.