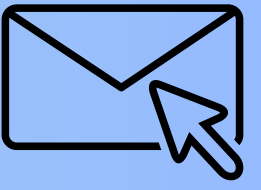


August 2024



Monthly Newsletter



WHAT'S NEW FROM THE IPAC HUB



We want to hear from you!!!

Please reach out to us at www.haltonipachub.com and let us know what topics you'd like to read about!



Coming Soon!

- **NEW** IPAC Champion Series
- **NEW** Donning and Doffing Video



Fact Sheets

- Cleaning & Disinfection of rooms on Additional Precautions
- Routine Practices
- Glove Usage

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING REMINDERS

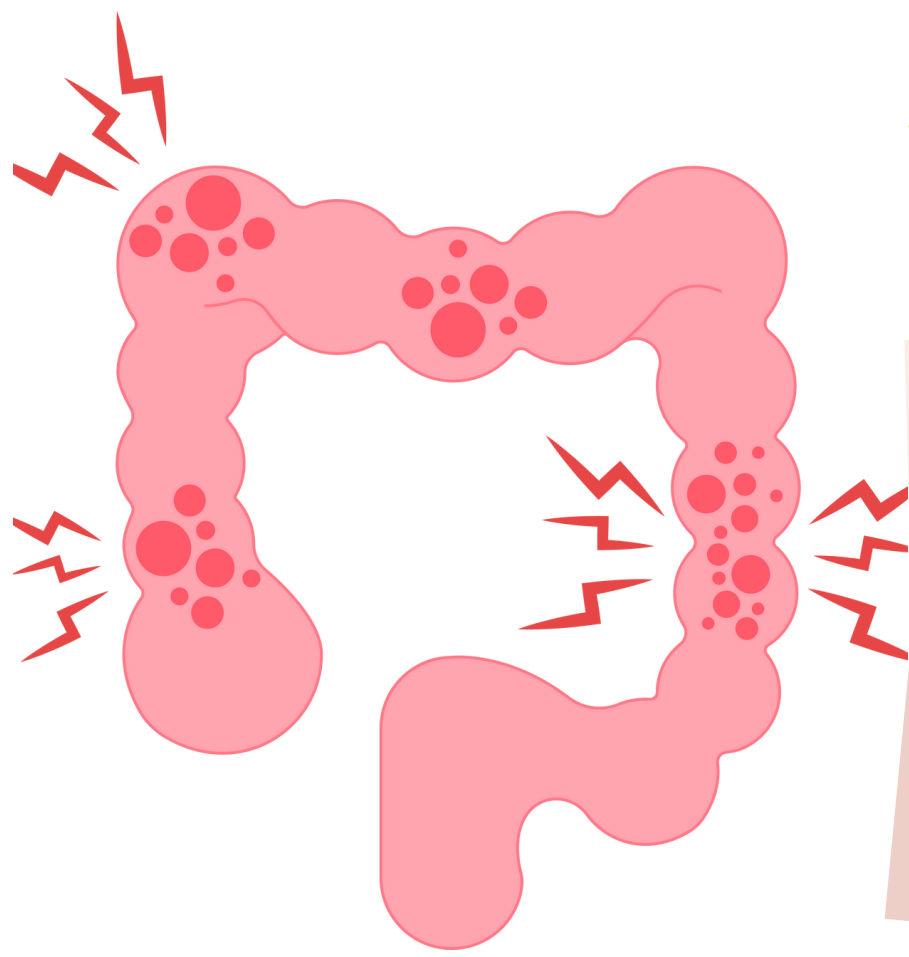
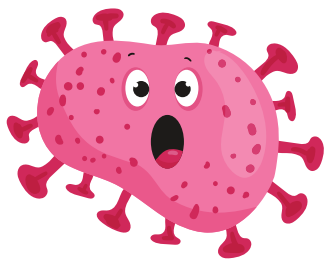
Safe Practices for Soiled Linen Handling



- Use Routine Practices for soiled linen
- Remove gross soil (e.g., faeces) with a gloved hand and dispose into toilet
- When handling soiled laundry, minimize agitation
- Wrap wet laundry in a dry sheet or towel before placing it in a laundry bag
- Do not sort or pre-rinse soiled laundry in care areas

You can find the complete factsheet on "[Safe Practices for Soiled Linen Handling](#)" and other useful factsheets at www.haltonipachub.com !

BUG OF THE MONTH



DID YOU KNOW?



- Norovirus was named after an outbreak in Norwalk, Ohio, in 1968. The name Norovirus combines "Norwalk" and "virus"
- Norovirus is often incorrectly referred to as 'stomach flu' but it is not related to the influenza "flu" virus

WHAT IS IT?

- Norovirus is a highly contagious virus that causes gastroenteritis (inflammation of the stomach and intestines)
- A common cause of viral gastroenteritis outbreaks
- Symptoms may start as soon as 12 hours after exposure
- Symptoms usually start suddenly and can be severe, but most people recover within 1 to 3 days

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Common symptoms include:

- Nausea
- Diarrhea with stomach pain and cramps
- Vomiting (more common in children than adults)

Additional symptoms may include: chills, fatigue, headache, muscle aches and low-grade fever

TRANSMISSION

Norovirus is highly contagious and spreads through several routes:

- **Fecal-Oral Route:**
 - Primary transmission route
 - If someone with norovirus doesn't wash their hands properly after using the bathroom and then touches food, surfaces, or other people, they can spread the virus
- **Direct Contact:**
 - The virus can be transmitted through direct contact with an infected person. This includes touching or shaking hands with someone who has norovirus, especially if you then touch your mouth or face
- **Aerosolized Particles:**
 - Tiny droplets can be suspended in the air when an infected person vomits. These droplets can settle on surfaces or be inhaled
- **Indirect Contact:**
 - The virus can survive on surfaces for up to 12 days, leading to potential infection if you touch contaminated surfaces and then your face
 - Common surfaces include countertops, bathroom fixtures, and kitchen utensils

IPAC CONSIDERATIONS

- **Hand Hygiene:**
 - Use soap and water to wash hands for at least 20 seconds, especially after using the bathroom, before eating, and after handling potentially contaminated items
 - **Hand sanitizers are less effective against Norovirus, thus handwashing is recommended**
- **Contact Precautions:**
 - Continue precautions until 48 hours after resolution of symptoms
- **Cleaning and Disinfection:**
 - Use a **disinfectant with a Norovirus kill claim!**
 - Focus on high-touch surfaces
 - Clean up vomit and diarrhea promptly and ensure to wear gloves and use disposable wipes
 - Wear appropriate PPE when in contact with contaminated surfaces. If necessary, wear face protection to protect from potential splashes and sprays when cleaning



FEEDBACK SURVEY

Please scan the QR code with your cell phone camera and provide the IPAC Hub with feedback and topic suggestions. Thank you!

[Survey Link](#)

REFERENCES

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). Significant organisms in environmental cleaning. Toronto, ON: King's Printer for Ontario; 2023.

Public Health Agency of Canada (2022, December 2). Norovirus: for Health Professionals. Government of Canada.

RESOURCES

Environmental Cleaning:

[PIDAC: Best Practices for Environmental Cleaning for Prevention and Control of Infections in All Health Care Settings](#)

Norovirus:

[Norovirus: For Health Professionals](#)

[Significant organisms in environmental cleaning](#)

[Routine Practices and Additional Precautions In All Health Care Settings, 3rd edition](#)