

# New IP Lunch and Learn



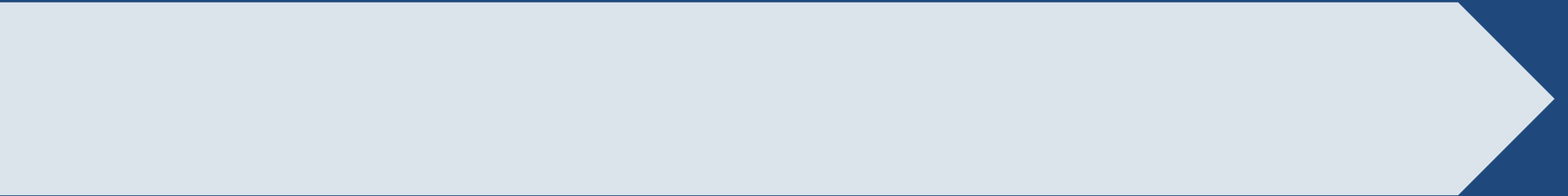
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October 11, 2022

# Infection Preventionist Lunch and Learn Series

- A new call series for Infection Preventionists (IPs) of all care settings that:
  - Encourages learning, growing, and networking.
  - Provides education and information that is non-regulatory.
  - Discusses topics relevant to new IPs.
- Each session will have time set aside for Q&A.

# Environmental Infection Control



# Health Care Environment

- The health care environment is a reservoir for all types of microorganisms.
- Risks exist on surfaces, in the air, in the water, and in waste generated by the facility.
- The goal of environmental infection prevention is to mitigate those risks.

# Areas to Monitor

- Environmental surfaces
- Air handling
- Water management
- Laundry services
- Medical waste management
- Animal and pest control
- Construction



# Environmental Surfaces

- Select the appropriate Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)-approved agent
- Use specific agents for the contaminant
- Follow proper contact time
- Avoid cleaning methods that produce mist or disperse dust
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for use (IFU)

<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/toolkits/Environmental-Cleaning-Checklist-10-6-2010.pdf>  
<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants>

# Air Handling

- Check air pressure relationships regularly
- Verify that exhaust fans are located away from air intake vents
- Become familiar with the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system
- Maintain appropriate humidity levels to avoid bacterial and fungal growth
- Ensure emergency back-up generators are available

# Water Management

- Follow all water management program requirements for health care facilities
- Work with the water management team and outside contractors for mediation and follow up testing if *Legionella* is found
- Have a plan in place for a back-up water supply

<https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/toolkit/index.html>  
<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/environment/water.html>



# Laundry Practices

- For hot water washing:
  - Ensure a temperature of at least 160°F for a minimum of 25 minutes
  - Choose chemicals suitable for the washing temperature
- Monitor laundry facilities for cleanliness, proper handling, and use of appropriate temperatures

# Laundry Practices

- Handle and store soiled and clean linens separately
- Cover or contain linens to avoid contamination



# Medical Waste

- Close all bags securely before disposal
- Place puncture-resistant containers at the point of use as needed for sharps
- Dispose of medical waste regularly to avoid accumulation

# Animal and Pest Control

- Ensure you have a policy if animals are allowed.
  - SHEA guidance is available.
  - Make sure your policy is ADA compliant.
- Pest control is not always infection prevention but often falls into our bucket.
  - Rodents and bed bugs are considerations – work with environmental services.

[Animals in Healthcare Facilities: Recommendations to Minimize Potential Risks](#)

# Construction

- Perform a risk assessment
- Construct physical barriers
- Conduct daily monitoring
- Flush water systems to clear dust-contaminated lines
- Inspect damp or water damaged areas for mold
- Clean construction zone before removing barriers

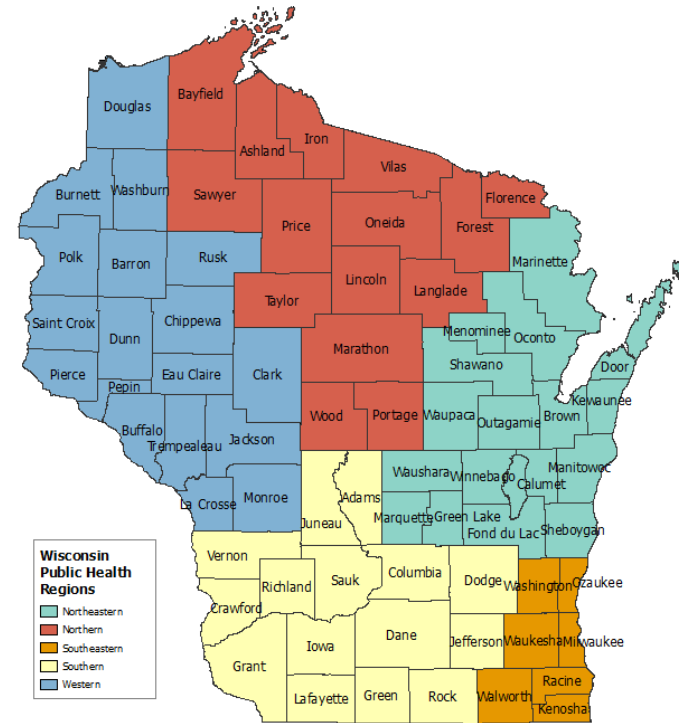
# Infection Preventionist Starter Kit



<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p02992.pdf>

# HAI Prevention Program IPs

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[www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm](http://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm)

# Questions?

What topics or content would you like to see covered on future calls?  
Please submit your ideas to [ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:ashley.okeefe@dhs.wisconsin.gov)



# Upcoming Lunch and Learn Session

Date: Tuesday, November 8, 2022

Topic: Disinfection and Sterilization