



PICNet Provincial Mask/ Respirators Working Groups for Pandemic Influenza

PICNet has been asked by the Ministry of Health to convene two separate mask/respirator-related working groups, one to look into issues of mask/respirator inventory in Health Authorities in BC, and one to probe issues of mask/respirator usage.

The inventory working group met twice by teleconference in June, bringing together key logistics staff from the various Health Authorities, along with infection prevention and control and occupational health experts. The group was struck with the following objectives: to confirm/adapt current formulae used to calculate amount of mask/respirators kept on hand in the health authorities; to develop recommendations on the proportion of masks vs. respirators to be stocked; and to develop recommendations on regular inventory vs. pandemic supply. This group is now finalizing a summary of discussions and recommendations for the Ministry of Health.

PICNet will convene the mask/respirator usage group for the first time early this month. This group has been asked by the Pandemic Influenza Management Committee (PIMC) to address issues regarding the use of surgical masks and N95 respirators for preventing the transmission of influenza in healthcare settings during a pandemic influenza outbreak and review recommendations for the province of British Columbia. This group will review recommendations for the role of surgical masks versus N95 respirators, and risk assessment in preventing the transmission of influenza in healthcare settings during pandemic influenza outbreaks. It will also review requirements for “fit testing” healthcare workers for N95 respirators in preventing the transmission of influenza in healthcare settings during pandemic influenza outbreaks.

Updates on the Roll-Out of Provincial Surveillance Program for *Clostridium difficile* Infections (CDI)

PICNet’s new provincial voluntary CDI surveillance system has now gone live within two Health Authorities (HA), and quality assurance is nearing completion in a third HA. Data mapping and database modifications are also being undertaken in the remaining HAs. Through this system, each HA is able to submit anonymized data from both regional and facility levels to a provincial data repository using a secure web portal.

When data is submitted from all Health Authorities, epidemiologists will then be able to compile CDI rates and trends that will be shared with the submitters. PICNet hopes to have preliminary results available in the summer of 2009. Provincial aggregate rates will be made publicly available. This will enable benchmarks to be established, by which Health Authorities and facilities can

measure themselves and apply interventions as necessary for improved infection prevention and control.

PICNet’s Surgical Site Infection Prevention E-module

PICNet continues to work closely with content experts, and a technical design team from Vancouver Coastal Health’s Educational Technologies Department towards the development of an on-line surgical site infection prevention educational module. The technical design team is currently working on the final chapter, and on completion of this, beta-testing of the module will begin. Our goal is to be able to release the module this summer. This PICNet e-module will be freely accessible through our website at www.picnetbc.ca.

PICNet Infection Control Guidelines: Providing Health Care to the Client Living in the Community

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to all members of this PICNet Working Group, and to everyone else who has taken the time to provide feedback and input on this document. We plan to formally release this document by the end of July.

Needs Assessment for Infection Prevention & Control in Long Term Care

An on-line survey tool has now been developed to assist this PICNet Working Group in collecting the data needed to perform a province-wide needs assessment for infection prevention and control resources in long term care settings. This survey will enable the groups to identify gaps in resources for infection control in these settings, in order for Health Authorities to be able to develop solid business cases towards attaining increased resources. PICNet will send the survey out to selected facilities within each Health Authority throughout the summer so that survey results can be analyzed in the early fall.

Gastrointestinal Infections (GI) Outbreak Guidelines Working Group

This Working Group continues its work towards developing a set of provincial guidelines for GI Outbreaks in BC. An information specialist has now been contracted to begin a literature review focused on some identified key questions. These guidelines are intended to provide guidance to all health care settings when developing or updating policies and processes that pertain to the prevention, surveillance for, identification and control of gastrointestinal outbreaks.

Webber Training Debrief

Since February 2006 PICNet has purchased and hosted educational classes offered by Webber Training. These classes address topics of interest to infection control professionals and other health care professionals worldwide.

The topics and faculty of the **2009 Teleclass Education** lecture series are available on the Webber Training web site at <http://webbertraining.com/schedulep1.php>

There are only two Webber teleclasses scheduled for July 2009.

Webber Training July 2009 Schedule

Date:	Topic of Interest:	Presenter:
July 16, 2009	(Free Teleclass) ProMED and the Use of Informal Information Sources for Emerging Disease Surveillance	Dr. Larry Madoff, ProMED Editor, Harvard Medical School
July 21, 2009	(Free British Teleclass) Fitness for Purpose in Infection Control	Martin Kiernan, Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust

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