

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clean Hands Have Never Mattered More:

May 5th 2020, is STOP! Clean Your Hands Day. Cleaning your hands helps flatten the curve.

May 4, 2020 (Winnipeg, MB) Infection Prevention and Control Canada is supporting the Canadian Patient Safety Institute in their “STOP! Clean Your Hands” campaign, launching today. Infection prevention and control professionals are on the frontline of hospital and long-term care settings preventing the spread of infections and COVID-19 to patients, healthcare workers and the public.

It has been estimated that over the next 30 years in Canada, infections will be the biggest driver of acute care patient safety incidents, accounting for roughly 70,000 patient safety incidents per year on average – generating an additional \$480 million per year on average in healthcare costs. Cleaning your hands is one of the best ways to avoid the spread of infections.

“Simple hand hygiene can go a long way to preventing the spread of infections in all settings. When emergency orders are lifted, washing your hands will be a key method to stop the spread of COVID-19 and protect those around you,” says Infection Prevention and Control Canada President, Barbara Catt. “We want to encourage everyone to work together. We’re saying spread the message, not the disease.”

These outbreak control measures can slow spread, reduce peak impact on health systems, and give hospitals, long-term care facilities and our communities time to manage the healthcare needs of the country. It will take everyone working together to flatten the curve.

“Wash your hands often,” says Gerry Hansen, Executive Director of Infection Prevention and Control Canada. “Avoid touching your face. Cough or sneeze into your elbow and stay home as much as possible. Now is the time to act, but we must act together.”

Thousands of healthcare providers in hundreds of healthcare sites across Canada will participate in the 2020 campaign, led by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute in conjunction with the World Health Organization’s SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands campaign. Go to <https://ipac-canada.org/hand-hygiene.php> to access tools, information & resources to keep yourself and others safe.

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IPAC Canada is the national, professional organization for those professionally or occupationally interested in the prevention and control of infections in all healthcare settings.

For further information and media inquiries, please contact:

Richard Mullin

Richard@impactcanada.com

647-317-9057