

**Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care**

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June 22, 2006

MEMORANDUM TO: Chief Executive Officers, Hospitals

RE: Provincial Hygiene Project
Call for Pilot Sites

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term (MOHLTC) care has taken significant steps over the past several years to implement and support infection prevention and control activities within the health care system. We are now joining our national and international colleagues in developing strategies to improve hand hygiene compliance by healthcare workers.

Hand hygiene is the primary and most effective measure to control the spread of organisms and protect patients from avoidable infections. The MOHLTC is funding a multi-faceted hand hygiene program aimed at improving hand hygiene compliance in our hospitals. The MOHLTC will share their experiences with others by evaluating and publishing outcomes of Ontario's hand hygiene program.

The MOHLTC is looking for hospital pilot sites to test and evaluate the program before provincial roll-out. The pilot phase of the project will commence this summer (2006). It will include eight hospitals from across Ontario. The timeline of the Pilot will include:

- a three month preparation phase within each pilot facility
- a six month testing phase in 2 - 3 units of each hospital facility (approximately 80 beds).

Background on the pilot project and guidelines for participation are included in the attached three appendices. (Appendix A – Background, Appendix B – Letter of Intent Requirement, Appendix C – Project Co-ordinator Role)

We encourage all interested hospitals to apply. **Application deadline for pilot consideration is Thursday, July 13, 2006 @ 4:00p.m. Please see Appendix B for submission details.**

In addition, we are interested in learning more about hand hygiene initiatives in all facilities. We would appreciate receiving input from you or your infection prevention and control program via participation in this short on-line survey. It will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. You will find the survey at:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=900872249276>

Your feedback is important. Your lessons learned will assist us in creating an effective provincial hand hygiene program.

If you have any questions, please contact Liz McCreight, Hand Hygiene Project Co-Lead, at 416-212-5228 or at liz.mccreight@moh.gov.on.ca

Thank you for your support of this very important initiative.

Yours truly,



Dr. Sheela V. Basrur
Chief Medical Officer of Health and
Assistant Deputy Minister

Attachments (3)

Appendix A
Appendix B
Appendix C

c. Medical Officers of Health