Unpack the world of IPAC: Doing virtually everything in web based IPAC 101

The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic declared on March 11, 2020, by the World Health Organization has revealed gaps across the continuum of healthcare in Canada. Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003 highlighted the need for professional expertise in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and has had positive outcomes on the development and investments in IPAC Programs, in acute care settings. However, the response was limited to acute care settings, widening the gap in expertise between acute care and other components of the healthcare system in Canada. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for increased infection control training for healthcare workers in other sectors including long-term care, retirement homes, and community settings. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the world to engage in the ubiquitous use of virtual learning, while online and distance learning has been used before to maintain continuity of health care, the scale and urgency to respond to the need for IPAC training in the current crisis is unprecedented.

The course is offered 3 times per year Since 2021 under 200 students have completed the course to date

Synchronous 100-hour program consists of 14 units for a total duration of 16 weeks. The availability of the internet and virtual/online trainings/learnings has produced numerous educational benefits. Many adult learners enjoy flexibility when they have to balance work, study, and family responsibilities. The wide range of various technological advancements used by the college and instructors enhances the interaction among students and instructors with the students.

The course aim to connect synchronous online learning with asynchronous modalities. This approach was initially developed to cater to graduate students who hold full-time jobs and require flexible learning options. In order to meet the evolving demands of Infection Prevention and Control practitioners, will continue to offer online IPAC Course, however taking in account the feedback we have received regarding technology fatigue, we are considering to offer in-person classes that meet the needs of the students.

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The success of this education program was confirmed by the high rate of students who successfully completed course, expended IPAC knowledge, and demonstrated immediate retention and competence.