

LTC Surveillance Workshop

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Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group Co-Chairs

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Disclaimer

The presenters represent the IPAC Canada Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group (SAEIG).

The presenters do not have any conflicts of interest to declare.

Objectives

- Provide an overview of surveillance
- Outline the components of a surveillance system
- Review key elements of data collection and analysis
- Review considerations for presentation of surveillance findings
- Provide practical surveillance examples for long-term care settings

Surveillance – What & Why?



What is surveillance?

"The Ongoing, systematic collection, analysis, and interpretation of health-related data essential to planning, implementation, and evaluation of public health practice, closely integrated with the timely dissemination of these data to those responsible for prevention and control" CDC

https://www.cdc.gov/publichealth101/documents/introduction-to-surveillance.pdf

Why do we conduct surveillance?

Detect baseline and endemic rates of disease

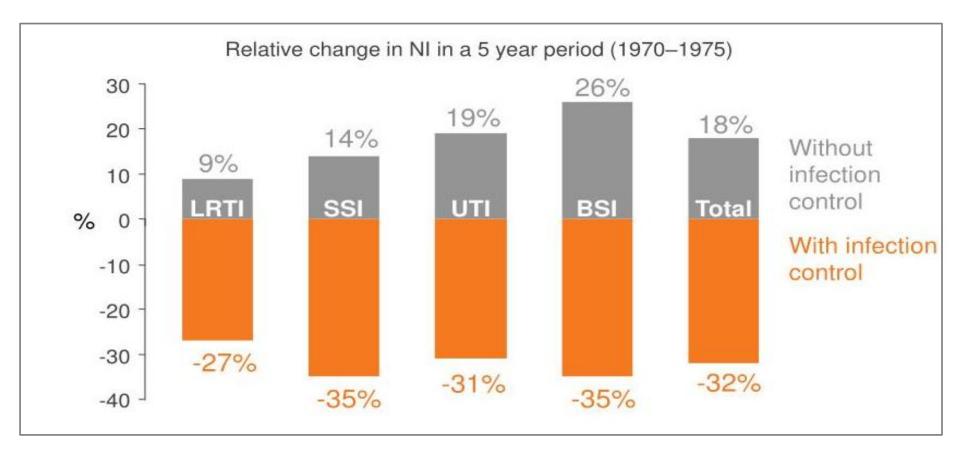
- Detect disease clusters/outbreaks
- Assess effectiveness of infection prevention & control measures
- Monitor adverse outcomes and identify risk factors
- Measure & evaluate effectiveness of interventions
- Detect reportable diseases/sentinel events
- Detect emerging infectious diseases
- Provide education for healthcare professionals

Importance of surveillance in infection control



Semmelweis washing his hands in chlorinated lime water

SENIC study: Study on the Efficacy of Nosocomial Infection Control



Halev RW et al. Am J Epidemiol 1985

Types of surveillance

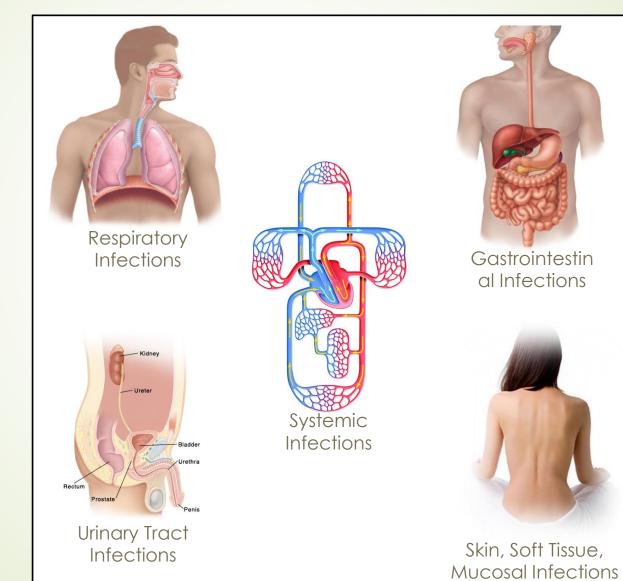
- Total vs. targeted
- Active vs. passive
- Symptom based vs. syndromic
- Process vs. outcome based

Process Surveillance



www.ipac-canada.org/tools

Outcome Surveillance

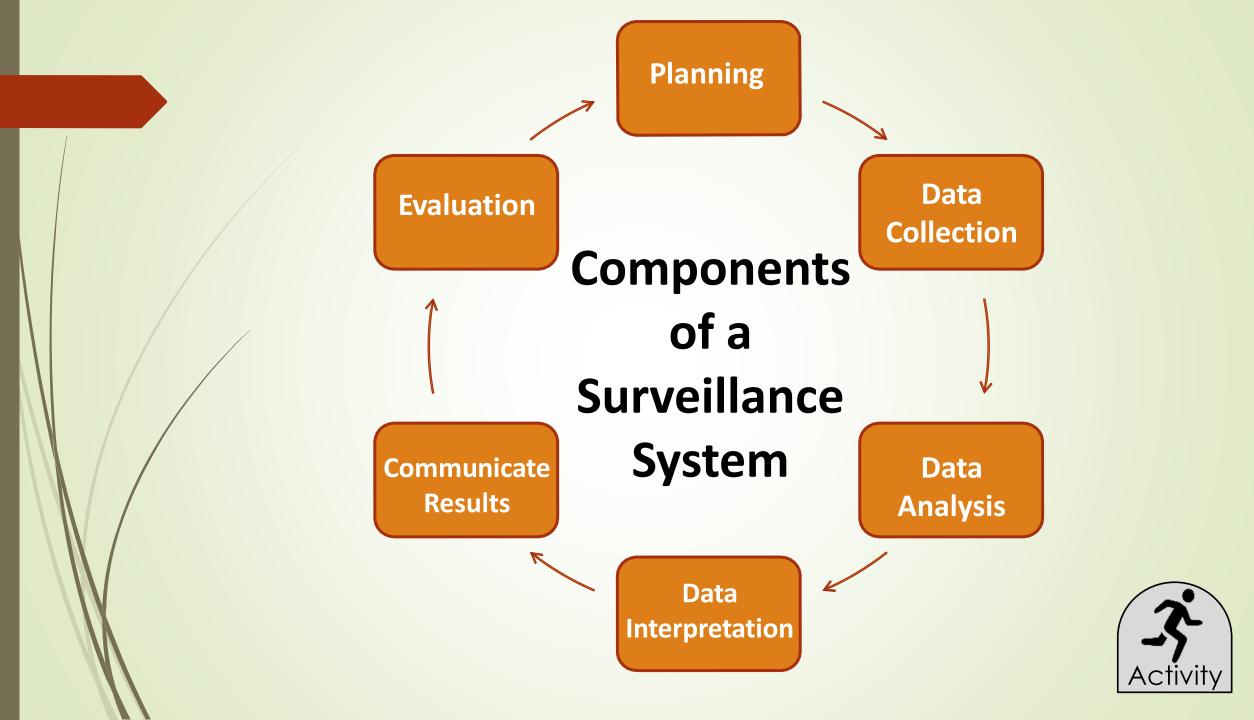


Knowledge Check

Is it a Process or an Outcome measure?

- 1. C.difficile Infection
- 2. PPE donning and doffing technique
- 3. Hand hygiene compliance
- 4. CAUTI





Getting Started



Setting up a surveillance system

Prioritization

- Risk assessment and Epidemiology
- Planning
 - Who? What? Why? How? When?
- Standardization
 - Case identification, definitions, protocols, data collection tools

Establish case definitions

- Standard set of criteria used to classify patients/residents/staff as a case
- Describes cases in terms of person, place and time
- Based on the symptoms experienced and/or lab confirmation
- May be developed by the Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) in collaboration with local public health unit
- A good case definition should include most, if not all cases, and few false positives

Established case definitions

Acute Care

- Canadian Nosocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP)
- CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (<u>NHSN</u>)

Long-Term Care

- IPAC Canada
- Society for Healthcare Epidemiology (<u>SHEA/Stone</u>)

Data Collection



Data collection

PASSIVE

- Rely on staff or residents to report symptoms
- Requires the least amount of ICP time and resources
- Greater misclassification or underreporting

ACTIVE

- ICP actively seeks out HAI's on a regular basis
- Requires a high level of ICP support
- Higher level of sensitivity

Data collection

- Determined by outcomes and case definitions
- Data collection may occur:
 - During a patient's stay at a facility
 - Retrospectively, after discharge
- Data sources:
 - Medical records/patient charts
 - Lab reports
 - Isolation lists
 - Admission logs
 - Clinical diagnosis
 - Discharge abstract database (DAD)

Storing Data

IPAC Canada Databases

- Acute Care Surveillance Tracking Tool
- Long Term Care Surveillance Database and <u>Reporting Tool</u>

Commercial Database Examples

- Microsoft Excel
- Statistical Analysis Software (SAS)



Data Quality



Data Cleaning

- Apply Logic Checks for:
 - Blank or missing information
 - Irregularities in patient demographics
 - Compliance with case definitions
 - Compliance with case classification rules

Competency Check Up

Consistent application of case definitions and protocols

Identify education opportunities

Data Analysis



HAI specific rates (incidence density rates)

- MRSA, VRE, respiratory infections
- Numerator: number of cases in specified time period
- Denominator: Use total number of patient days
- Usually presented as x per 10,000 patient days

https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2014/bp-hai-surveillance.pdf?la=en

- Procedure specific surgical site infection rates
 - Hips, knees, C-sections or hysterectomies
 - Numerator: number of cases in specified time period following specified procedure
 - Denominator: Use total number of patients that had the same procedure in the same time period
 - Usually presented as x100 procedures

https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2014/bp-hai-surveillance.pdf?la=en

- Device associated infection rates
 - Ventilator-associated pneumonia, indwelling-catheter associated UTIs
 - Numerator: number of cases in specified time period
 - Denominator: Use total number of device days
 - Usually presented as x 1,000 device days

https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/B/2014/bp-hai-surveillance.pdf?la=en

Measures of disease occurrence

- Rate expression of frequency with which an event occurs in a defined population per unit of time
- Ratio value obtained by dividing one quantity by another
- Proportion type of ratio in which the values in the numerator are included in denominator

Measures of disease occurrence

- Incidence rate measure of frequency with which an event occurs in a population over defined time period.
 - Numerator is number of new cases, denominator is population at risk
- Prevalence rate proportion of all persons in a population who have a particular disease or condition at a specified point in time (point prevalence) or over specified period of time (period prevalence)
 - Numerator is number of existing cases, denominator is population at risk

Rate= $(X/Y) \times k$

- X = The numerator (I.e. number of cases or times the event has occurred during a specified time interval)
- Y = The denominator which equals the number in the population (I.e. number of patients at risk) from which those experiencing the event were derived during the same time interval
- k = A constant used to transform the result of division into a uniform quantity that can be compared with other similar quantities. (I.e. 100, 1000, 10,000 or 100,000). Value of K is made so that the smallest rate calculated has at least one number to the left of the decimal point.

Incidence rate

(X/Y) x k

- **X** = (number of **new** cases during a given time period)
- **Y** = (number of patient/resident days for that same time period)

Prevalence rate

(X/Y) x k

X = (number of all **existing** cases during a specific time period)

Y = (count of that population for the same time period)

*** Choice of denominator is important! Denominator must only include those at risk of the outcome of interest.

Attack rate (expressed as %) (X/Y) x 100

X = (number of **new** cases during a given time period)

Y = (population at risk for that same time period)

Mortality Rate

(X/Y) x k

- **X** = (number of **deaths**)
- **Y** = (population at risk)

Device-associated infections

- Central lines
- Ventilators
- Foley catheters
- Enteral tubes

(X/Y) x k

X = Number of infections

Y = Number of device days during a given time period

Surgical site infections (SSIs)

- Rates calculated for a particular surgery (CABG, appendectomy)
- The population at risk are those who had the same type of surgery
- Constant is 100, so always in %

X/Y x 100 procedures

X = Number of infections following surgery Z

Y = Number of patients that had Z surgery during a given time period

Epidemic Curves

Epidemic Curves can be used to:

- Perform a review of surveillance data
- Visually depict magnitude of an outbreak
- Determine if a problem is ongoing

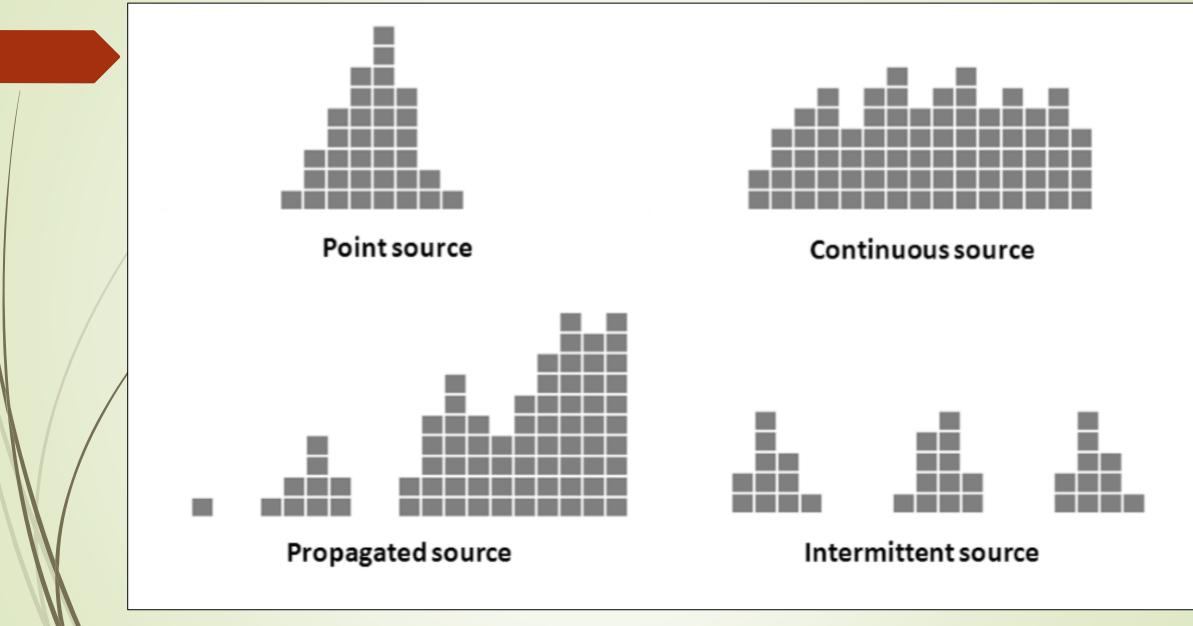
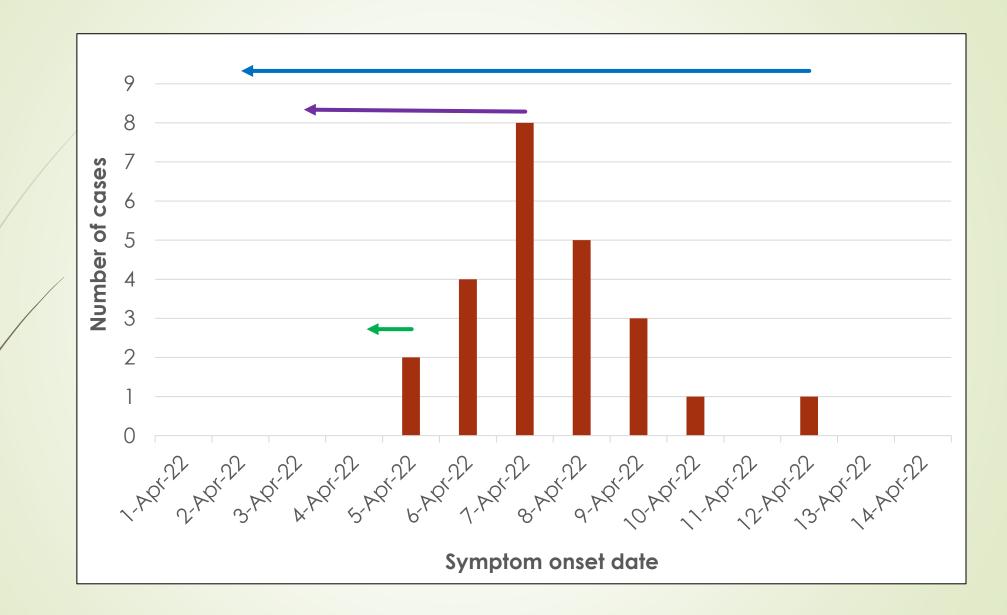


Image source: https://outbreaktools.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Epicurves_Figure_2.png

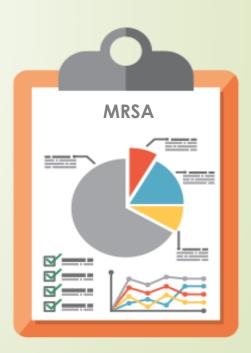


Benchmarking

- Compare rates internally:
 - From one year to the next
 - From one respiratory season to the next
- Compare rates externally:
 - To an externally published standard/reference, e.g. NHSN
 - To another facility of similar size/population/other characteristics
 - https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/index.html



Surveillance Reports



Communicating Findings

- Verbal/written and visual when to use graphs vs. reports
- Timely provide information quickly in outbreak or if there is a spike in infections
- To those who need the information to make decisions and take action

https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/guidelines-presentation-surveillance-data

PICNet Report Template

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Annual Infection Control Report

20XX – 20XX

INSTRUCTIONS:

This template details the minimal information required in an Annual Report. Sections can be added to fit the needs of the organization. All sections within this template can be easily modified or sized to facilitate customization.

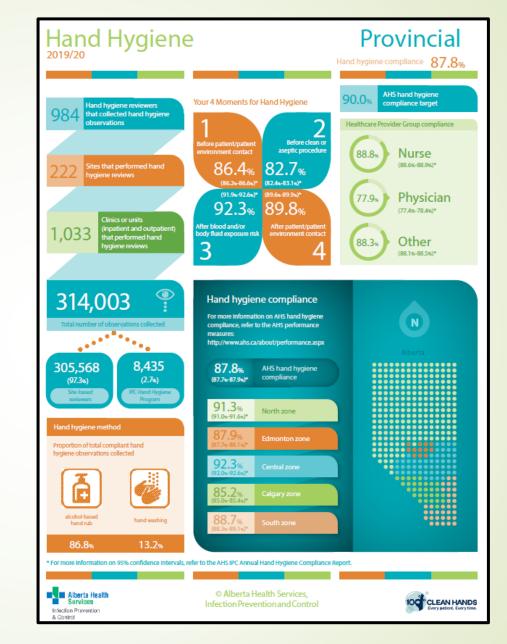
Any important information that does not readily fit within the structure of this template can be included at the end of the appropriate section. Inclusion of other supplementary material (supporting documentation, relevant calculations, etc.) should be incorporated into the Appendices.

This general instruction and the guidelines/examples that follow throughout the document indicated by [blue text] should be deleted when this document is complete and submitted for final review to your appropriate authorities.

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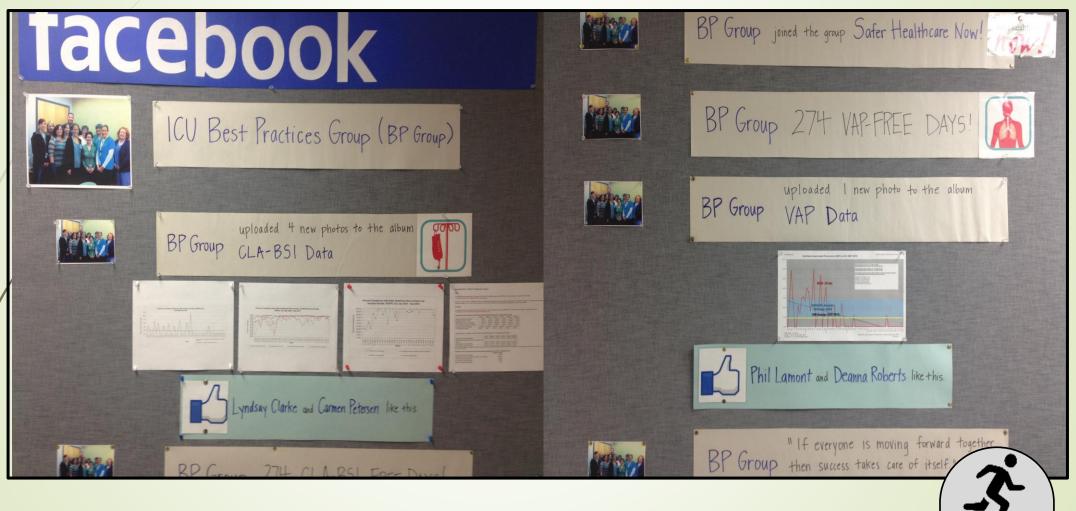
https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/Annual-InfectionControl-Report-Template-2012.doc

AHS Infographic Example



https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/hh/if-hp-hh-infographic.pdf

Unit Bulletin Board Posting Example



Activity

Evaluation



Evaluate the System

PROCESS

- How well the surveillance system is working on a day-to-day basis
- Measures things done to/for a patient within the healthcare system
- Reviewing case definitions, case finding methods or other surveillance procedures
- E.g., Hand hygiene audits

OUTCOME

- Effectiveness of a program in protecting patients, HCW and visitors from HAIs
- Looking at changes in health status that are attributable to care or service
- Did the system detect an outbreak?
- What practices were changed based on data?
- E.g., Surveillance of SSI rates

https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5013a1.htm



IPAC Canada Surveillance Tools



LTC Surveillance Definitions

Surveillance Definitions of Infections in Canadian Long Term Care Facilities

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¹ Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IMPA Canada), Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology Interest Group; ² IMC Canada, Long Term Care Interest Group; ³ IMC Canada, Long Term Care Interest Group;

In partnership with: Accreditation Canada; Accidiation of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease Canada; Canadian Patient Safety Institute; Centre for Communicable Disease and Infection Control, Public Health Agency of Canada; IPAC Canada

BACKGROUND

The Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) hosted a national infection prevention and control summit in November 2014. Participants came together with the goal of advancing infection prevention and control practices and reducing healthcare-associated infections (HAI) in Canada. During this meeting, measurement and surveillance, specifically improving consistency in surveillance practices across the country, surfaced as a key theme and an action plan was created. Under the leadership of Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) and the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Canada (AMMI Canada), a national committee was created to help establish and implement standard infection case surveillance definitions for HAI in acute care and long term care (LTC) facilities. Members of IPAC Canada's Surveillance and Applied Epidemiology, LTC, and Network of Networks Interest Groups and the L'Association des infirmières en prévention des infections formed a working group to revise the existing Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America LTC facility infection surveillance definitions. Case definitions were updated based on the Canadian healthcare system and an increase in evidence-based literature about infections that occur in residents of LTC facilities.1,2

METHOD SUMMARY

The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) guideline development methodology was used to revise the definitions.³ This included a structured review of evidence found in peer reviewed primary research reports and systematic and meta analyses. Changes to LTC infection case definitions were determined by consensus between working group members and reviewed by content experts including infectious disease physicians, epidemiologists, infection control professionals and public health officials. An annex describing the methodology used to produce these definitions, together with the literature search strategy, critical appraisal and stakeholder review and approval process, is available upon request.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Clinically relevant infections that occur in LTC facility residents are defined here for surveillance purposes. Infection presentation in the elderly may be atypical and failure to meet these surveillance definitions does not necessarily exclude the presence of infections. Further, as with the original definitions, key conditions must be met when applying the definitions: signs and symptoms must be new or acutely worse than the resident's baseline; non-infectious causes should be considered first; and identification of an infection should be based on both clinical presentation and diagnostic testing.¹³

Limited resources are available for infection prevention and control in may ITC facilities. As a result, it is recommended that surveillance focus on infections with the most potential for prevention, transmissibility, incidence, morbidity and/or mortality based on the local context. Attribution of an infection to a ITC facility for surveillance purposes should occur if there is no evidence the infection was incubating on admission to the facility and if infection onset occurs >2 calendar days after admission or >3 days after admission for *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDD).^{1,4} This is in keeping with the Canadian Noscocomial Infection Surveillance Program (CNISP) case classification rules for CDI in acute care.⁴ Finally, these definitions have not been tested in Canadian ITC facilities in advance of their publication.

DEFINITIONS Constitutional Criteria for Infection

The constitutional criteria in Table 1 serves to establish parameters for common signs and symptoms of infection present in the clinical syndromes defined in this document. The only change to constitutional criteria from the original definitions is to leukocytosis. Normal levels of total leukocytes (including neutrophils, easionphils, basophils, lymphocytes, and monocytes) in adults range between 4 to 10 x 10° cells/L.^{54,73} Thus, a cell count above the normal range is considered leukocytosis. Further, the left

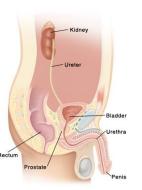


Infections



Systemic

Infections



Urinary Tract Infections



Gastrointestinal Infections

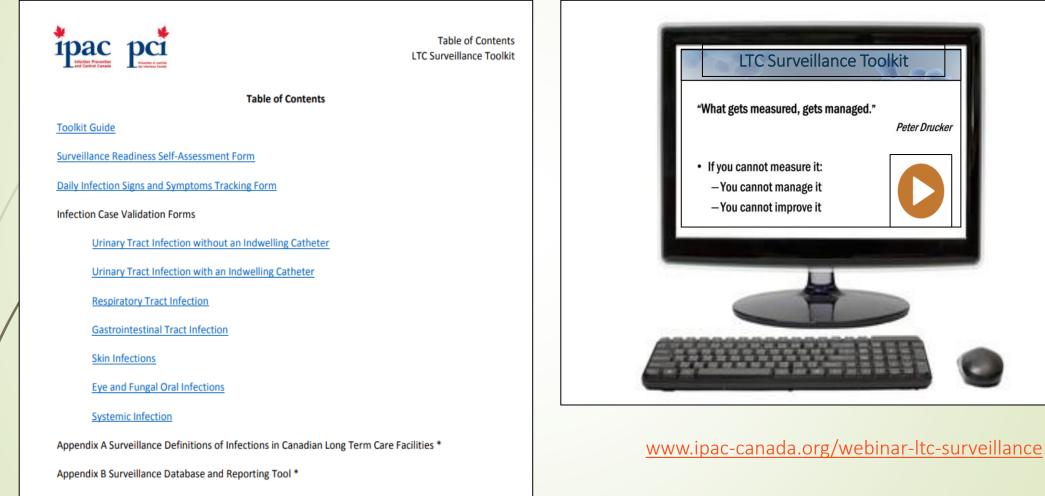


Skin, Soft Tissue, Mucosal Infections

10 Fall 2017 IPAC News

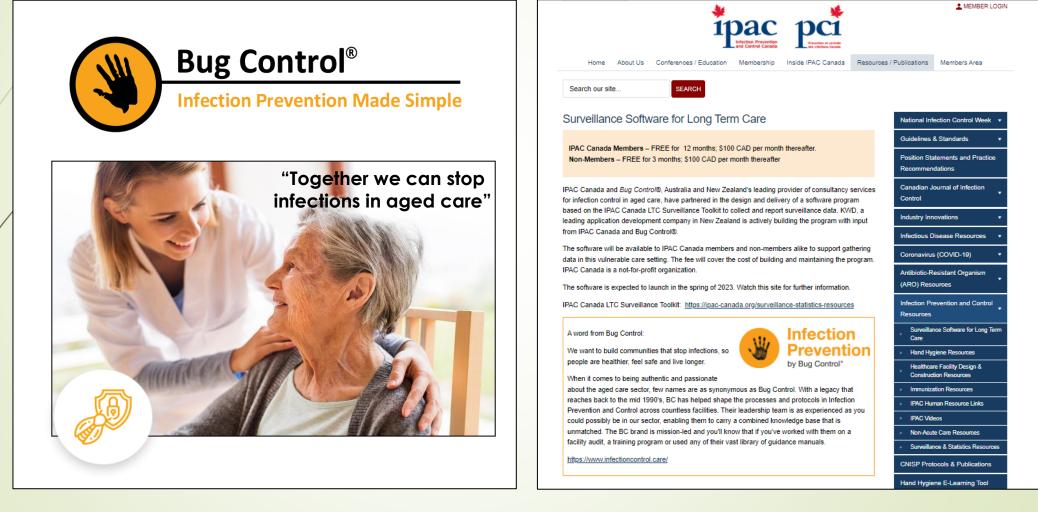
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LTC Surveillance Toolkit



Appendix C Training Tool for Frontline Staff *

Collecting LTC Surveillance Data



www.infectioncontrol.care

https://ipac-canada.org/surveillance-software-for-long-term-care

Helpful Resources

- Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario), Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee. <u>Best practices for surveillance of health care-associated infections</u> in patient and resident populations. 3rd ed. Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2014.
- Lee, T.B., Montgomery, O.G., Marx, J., Olmsted, R.N., Sheckler, W.E. Recommended practices for surveillance: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), Inc. 35(7): 427-440. <u>https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2007.07.002</u>
- Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada). Long-Term Surveillance Toolkit (Version 1.0; Released September 2020). Available from: <u>https://ipac-canada.org/surveillance-and-applied-epidemiology-interest-group.php</u>
- Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada). Acute Care Surveillance Tracking Form 1.0; Released March 2020). Available from: <u>https://ipac-canada.org/surveillance-and-applied-epidemiology-interest-group.php</u>
- Happe, J., Stoll, F., Biluk, L., Cargill, K., Cuff, A. et al. Surveillance Definitions of Infections in Canadian Long-Term Care Facilities. Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada). Can J Infect Control. Fall 2017 (Suppl):10-17). Available from: https://ipac-017.pdf
- Provincial Infection Control Network of British Columbia. Annual Infection Control Report Template. 2012. Available from: <u>https://www.picnet.ca/wp-content/uploads/Annual-InfectionControl-Report-Template-2012.doc</u>







** 10 minutes **

Knowledge to Action

Practice Makes Perfect

Long-Term Care Surveillance Exercise



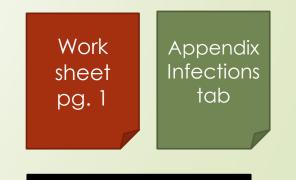
You will need:

- Surveillance Workshop Worksheet
- LTC Appendix Surveillance Database

		n Care														
You will need:																
Appendix A LTC Surveillance Database, available on t	1												In			
screenshot for the purposes of this exercise provided	2		Fa	cility name: ABC	Care			**Note: ente	er each	infection for an individu						
Resident Respiratory Tract Infection Line List on page	3		Year: 2022													
Resident Dining Room Seating Arrangement on page	4										Respira	atory				
Surveillance Definitions of Infections in Canadian Lon																
webpage. Relevant excerpts are provide on page 9.																
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Questions:								°c)	ed)	itis	SSS					
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Review the Appendix A LTC Surveillance Database ar		Month	Resident Name	Unit	Room #	Symptoms	infection an	Temperature (°C)	Fever (Calculated)	Cold/Pharyngitis	nfluenza-Like Illness	Pneumonia				
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1b. Applying case definitions	6	October	Tommy Tomato	1	101	1/10/2022	Yes	39.4	Yes				F			
You are an ICP at a long-term care home (ABC Care) a		October	Carly Carrot	1	101	2/10/2022	Yes		No				t			
on pages 6-7 to determine whether any of the reside	8	October	Petunia Pea	1	101	2/10/2022	Yes	39.7					t			
on page 9, for common cold, influenza-like illness or	9	October	Liam Lettuce	1	103	3/10/2022	Yes		Yes				F			
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	12	October	Bella Banana	1	124	4/10/2022	Yes	40.2	Yes				t			
	13	October	Cam Cabbage	1	124	4/10/2022	Yes	40.1	_				F			
	14	October	Polly Pumpkin	1	106		Yes		No				F			
Which resident(s) meet the case definition for influer	15	October	Aaron Asparagus	1	109		Yes		No				Г			
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	17								No				Г			
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	10						instructions A	RO Total ARO								

1. Data Cleaning

Review the Appendix A database and list 2 data errors
How would you correct them?



2 minutes

		Year:			-					
									Respir	atory
Month	Resident Name	Unit	Room #	Date Symptoms Started (dd/mm/yyyy)	Was the infection an HAI? (Y/N)	Temperature (°C)	Fever (Calculated)	Cold/Pharyngitis	Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)	Pneumonia
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ctober	Aaron Asparagus	1	109	7/10/2022	Yes		No			
ctober	Carly Carrot	1	101	2/10/2022	Yes		No			
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2. Applying IPAC Canada surveillance definitions

Scenario

Your long-term care facility has line-listed several residents with respiratory symptoms. You decide to apply IPAC Canada surveillance definitions to determine which resident(s) meet which definition to assist you in determining what pathogen(s) you may be dealing with.

> Work sheet pg. 1 & 9-11

2. Applying IPAC Canada surveillance definitions

Question

Choose 3 residents on the line list. Using IPAC Canada surveillance definitions, determine:

- Who meets the IPAC Canada surveillance definition for the common cold?
- ii. Who meets the IPAC Canada surveillance definition for influenza-like illness (ILI)?
- iii. Who meets the IPAC Canada surveillance definition for pneumonia?



	Resident identifiers		Symptoms (new onset)													
Room number	Resident Name	Onset date (y/m/d)	Abnormal Temperature (°C)	Dry Cough	Productive cough (new)	Runny nose/sneezing	Nasal congestion/stuffy nose	Sore throat/ hoarseness/ difficulty swallowing	Chills	Body aches	Malaise	Headache	Loss of appetite	Other symptoms (specify)	Date symptoms resolved (m/d)	X-ray confirmed pneumonia (m/d)
101	Tommy Tomato	10/1	39.4 C	x		x			x							9/30
101	Carly Carrot	10/2		x			x		x			x				
103	Petunia Pea	10/2	39.7 C				x	x								10/1
107	Liam Lettuce	10/3	40.0 C		x			x	x	x				Chest pain		10/2

2. Applying Case Definitions

- Common Cold:
 - Carly Carrot
 - Petunia Pea
 - Adam Apple
 - Aaron Asparagus
- ► |L|:
 - Bella Banana
 - Cam Cabbage

- Pneumonia:
 - Tommy Tomato
 - Liam Lettuce
 - Polly Pumpkin
 - Peter Pear

2. Applying Case Definitions

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2			Facility name:	ABC Care			**Note: ente	er each	infectio	on for a	n indivi	dual as c
3			Year:	2022								
4										Respir	atory	
	Month	Resident Name	Unit	Room #	Date Symptoms Started (dd/mm/yyyy)	Was the infection an HAI? (Y/N)	Temperature (°C)	Fever (Calculated)	Cold/Pharyngitis	Influenza-Like Illness (ILI)	Pneumonia	Lower Respiratory Tract Infection
5	-		-	•	•	*	-	+	-	-	-	-° -
6	October	Tommy Tomato	1	101	1/10/2022	Yes	39.4	-			Х	
7	October	Carly Carrot	1	101	2/10/2022	Yes		No	Х			
8	October	Petunia Pea	1	103	2/10/2022	Yes	39.7	_	X			
9	October	Liam Lettuce	1	107	3/10/2022	Yes		Yes			Х	
10	October	Adam Apple	1	110	3/10/2022	Yes		No	Х			
11	October	Peter Pear	1	121	3/10/2022	Yes		No			Х	
12	October	Bella Banana	1	124	4/10/2022	Yes	40.2	-		Х		
13	October	Cam Cabbage	1	124	4/10/2022	Yes	40.1			Х		
14	October	Polly Pumpkin	1	106	5/10/2022	Yes		No			Х	
15	October	Aaron Asparagus	1	109	7/10/2022	Yes		No	Х			
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18	Lef	ormation Glossary	Inf instructions	nfactions	Total Inf ARO	instructions A		No	<u>_</u>			

3. Epi-curves

Scenario

Review the resident respiratory tract infection line list for October.

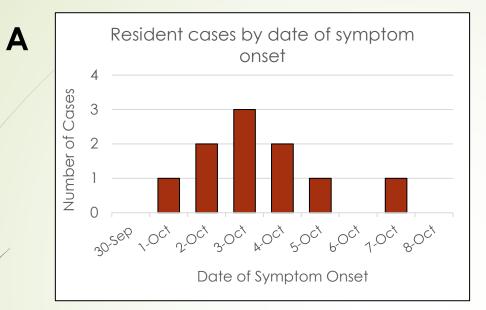
Question

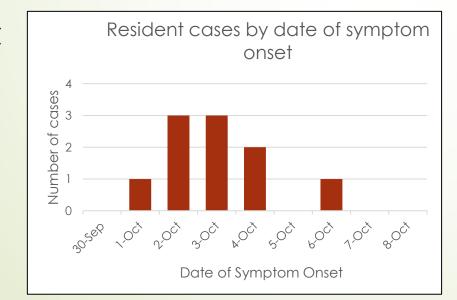
Prepare an epi-curve by plotting the cases on the y-axis, and symptom onset dates on the x-axis. What does your epi-curve look like?



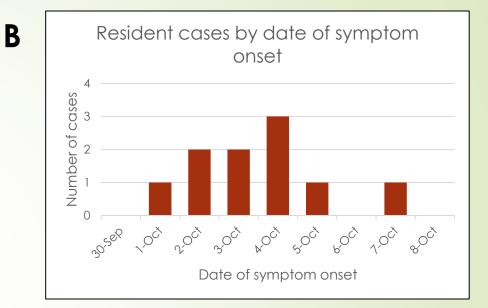
5 minutes

What does your epidemic curve look like?

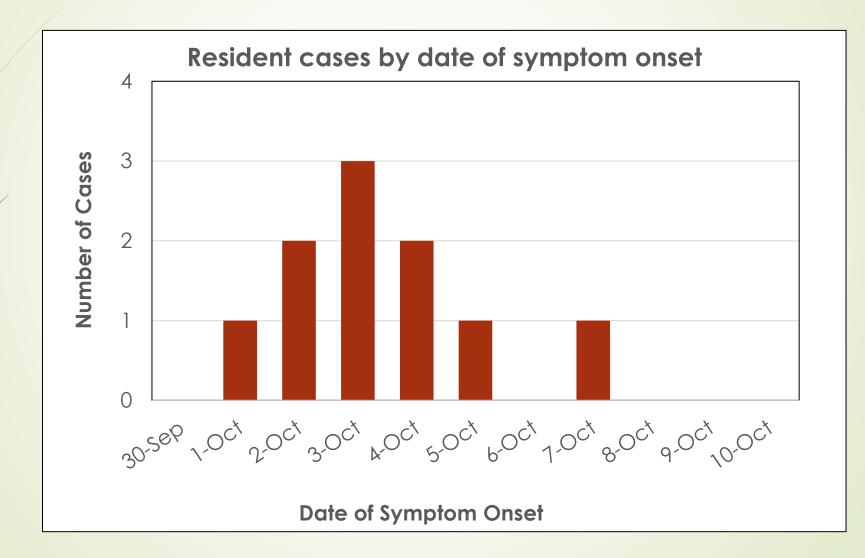




С



3. Epi-curve



4. Rate Calculations

Scenario

There are 150 residents in the ABC Care facility, and all residents were present in the facility for the full month of October. During the month of October, 12 residents had a new onset or respiratory symptoms that met the definition of an ILI, and 3 residents (in addition to the 4 already line listed) had ongoing symptoms consistent with a common cold.

Questions

i. what was the incidence rate of ILI in October?

ii. what was the prevalence of the common cold in the facility in October?

Work sheet pg. 3

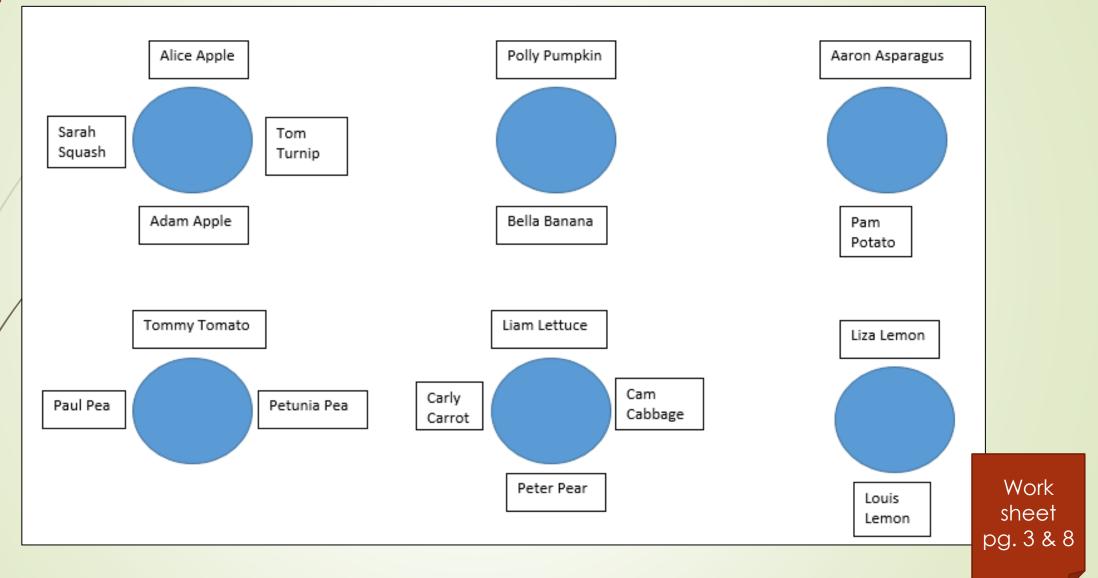
4. Rate Calculations

- Incidence rate:
 - A total of 12 residents had new onset of ILI in October
 - Incidence rate
 - = 12 cases per (31 x 150) resident days
 - = 12 cases per 4,650 resident days
 - = 2.6 cases per 1,000 resident days

4. Rate Calculations

- Prevalence:
 - 4 residents on our line list met the definition for a common cold in October
 - An additional 3 residents had ongoing symptoms of a common cold = 7 residents in total
 - Prevalence = $7/150 \times k$
 - Prevalence = $0.047 \times k$
 - Prevalence = 4.7 cases per 100 residents

5. Floor plans



5. Floor plans

Scenario

As part of your investigation into the observed cases of respiratory illness in your facility, you decide to do some additional detective work and take a look at the seating plan for the dining room in your facility.

Question

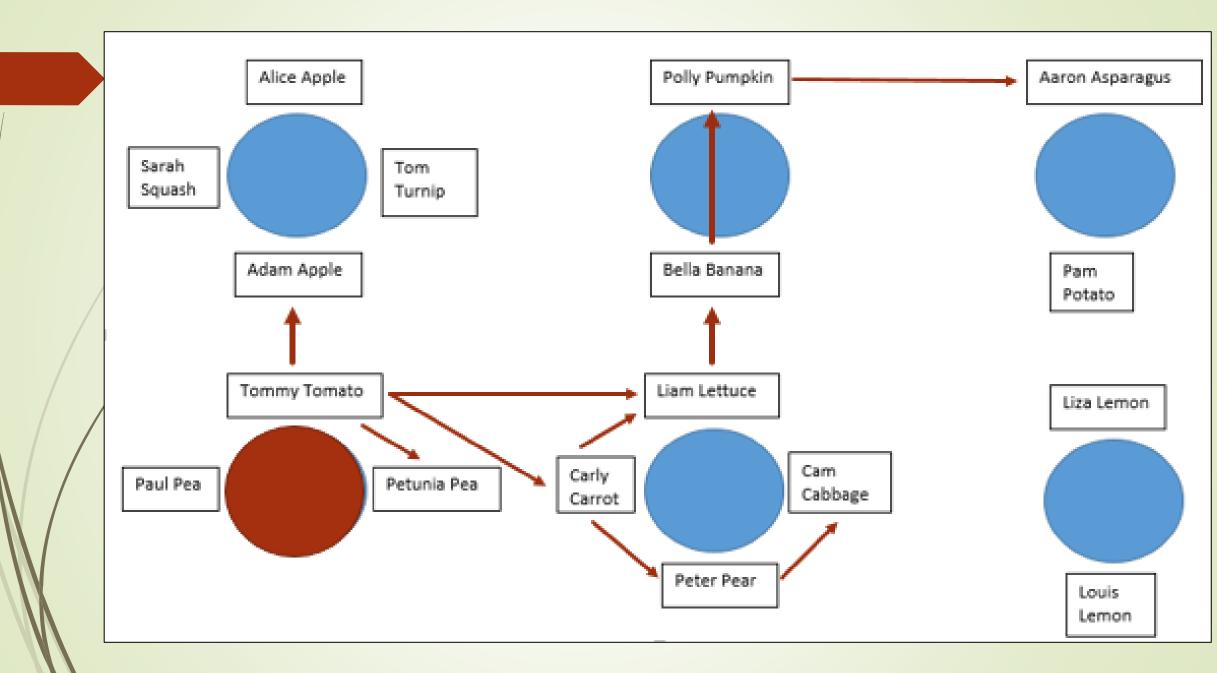
Looking at the dining room seating plan in conjunction with your resident line list, what do you observe?

***Hint: consider onset dates



5. Floor plans – what do you see?

- Overlaying onset dates with table placement:
 - Illness began at Tommy's table
 - Next illness began in his roommate (Carly Carrot) and nearest tablemate (Petunia Pea)
 - By onset day illness spread outward in dining mates and roommates
 - Dining room may have contributed to transmission within the home



6. Data to Action

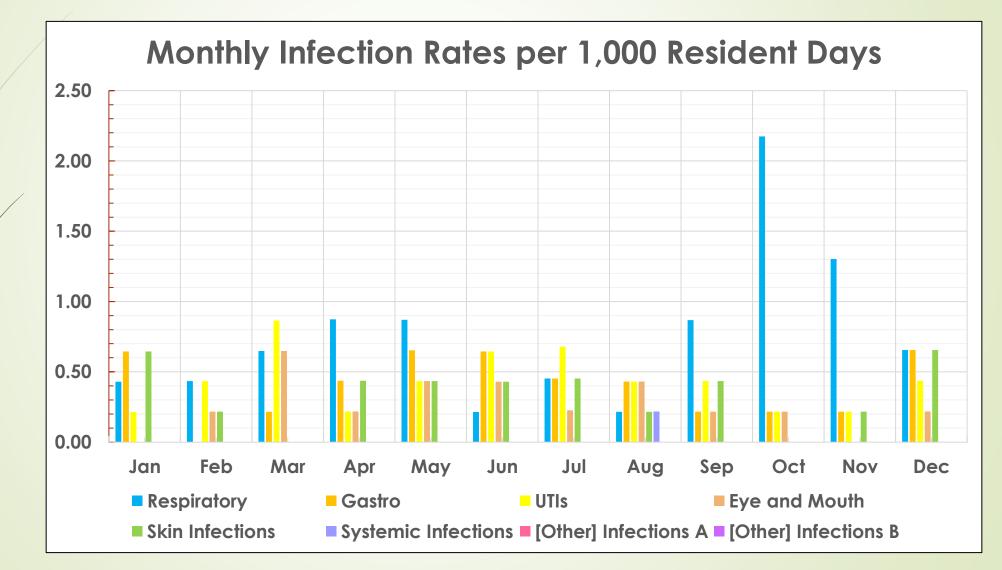
Question

What are the next steps you would take based on your observations? Consider if further investigation is needed, if infection prevention and control interventions are warranted, etc.

Work sheet pg. 3

3 minutes

7. Reviewing annual data



7. Reviewing annual data

Scenario

You have been asked to prepare an annual summary report for unit nursing staff and administration.

Questions

What information would you choose to highlight? What images (if any) would you consider including?

Work sheet pg. 3-4

8. Benchmarking

Scenario

To further understand the observed increase in respiratory illness in your facility in the fall, and whether this was unusual for your facility, your manager has asked you to internally benchmark your data.

> Work sheet pg. 4

8. Benchmarking

Question

Which of the following is the most appropriate:

- A. Comparing data for 2022 to 2021 (full year)
- B. Comparing data from Oct-Dec to Jan-March
- C. Comparing data from Oct-Dec (2022) to the same time period in 2021

Wrapping up

Objectives:

- Provide an overview of surveillance
- Outline the components of a surveillance system
- Review key elements of data collection and analysis
- Review considerations for presentation of surveillance findings
- Provide practical surveillance examples for long-term care settings



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