



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health  
Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 2022 September 15

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**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPAC) HUB  
UPDATE AND 2022- 23 FUNDING AGREEMENT**

***Recommendation***

***It is recommended that the Board of Health receive Report No. 53-22 re: “Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub Update and 2022-23 Funding Agreement,” for information.***

**Key Points**

- Since 2021, the Middlesex-London Health Unit has participated in the Ontario Health Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Hub initiative to provide support to congregate living settings in Middlesex-London.
- This initiative provides dedicated funding (\$270,067.82 in 2022-23) for partner agencies like public health, hospitals, and Ontario Health Teams to support congregate setting IPAC practices.
- In 2021, the Infectious Disease Control Team responded to 978 IPAC support requests from congregate living organizations.

**Background**

As part of the province’s comprehensive [Keeping Ontarians Safe: Preparing for Future Waves of COVID-19](#), local networks of IPAC expertise (IPAC Hubs) were developed across the province to enhance IPAC practices in community-based, congregate living settings. The Southwest IPAC Hub is a collaboration between Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU), the Huron Perth and Area Ontario Health Team and Southwestern Public Health.

Ontario Health has identified organizations including hospitals, public health units and others from across the province to lead local IPAC Hubs. These organizations work with local partners from across the health system who have IPAC expertise to provide advice and guidance, and to direct support to congregate settings in the region. For southwestern Ontario, Southwest Public Health serves as the lead agency and MLHU functions as a satellite hub specifically for the Middlesex-London region.

MLHU provides services and support to enhance IPAC practices in congregate living settings. This includes congregate settings that are funded and overseen by the Ministry of Health (MOH), Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC), Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility (MSAA), Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH) and the Ministry of Children, Community & Social Services (MCCSS). Settings include:

- Long-term care homes
- Retirement homes
- Group homes
- Shelters

- Supportive Housing
- Residential Treatment Centres
- Hospices

The Infectious Disease Control Team works collaboratively with partners to provide the following IPAC services and supports:

- Education and training
- Supportive visits and consults
- Assessments
- Best practice recommendations and implementation support
- Coaching/mentoring on IPAC practices
- Outbreak management planning
- Communities of practice

Further details can be found in the [Ministry of Health Infection Prevention and Control Hubs summary](#).

### **2022 – 2023 Memorandum of Agreement**

The Middlesex-London Health Unit will receive \$270,067.82 to provide IPAC Hub services between April 1, 2022, and March 31, 2023. Operationally, MLHU provides resources beyond the IPAC Hub funding to fully support the IPAC needs of congregate settings in our region. To date, costs beyond those allocated through Hub funding have been supplemented by COVID-19 exceptional funding. The funding agreement is attached as [Appendix A – IPAC Hub Agreement](#).

### **Next Steps**

MLHU will continue to work collaboratively with partners in the Hub initiative to enhance and provide infection prevention and control interventions within congregate settings in our community. Further clarity regarding the future of the IPAC Hub model is anticipated from the province at some point in the future.

This report was prepared by the Environmental Health and Infectious Disease Division.



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