

How Can My School Promote Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)?



Here are some ideas:

Bulletin board display:

Display a creatively designed and planned information board located prominently in a high traffic area to grab attention and generate interest in IPAC. Consider attending the information board at peak traffic times.

Themes might include: 'Outbreak Season: What You Need to Know', 'Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette' or 'Tips to Stay Healthy'

Poster contest or homeroom class door decorating challenge:

If a contest is being established, consider inviting the custodial staff or IPAC health champion at your school to judge the winning poster. Consider inviting students to colour the 'Wash Away Germs' activity sheet or have them develop their own tips for preventing the spread of germs! Consider assigning different infection prevention and control strategies to classes and have them depict their information on how they contribute to infection prevention and control.

Inspiring words contest:

A contest for those who enjoy word play. Have students submit their best ideas for an infection control week slogan. Advertise the contest and select a date by which submissions must be made for consideration. The best slogan can be selected by a panel (such as parent or student council) and could be adopted for the year to be used on newsletters, emails, etc.

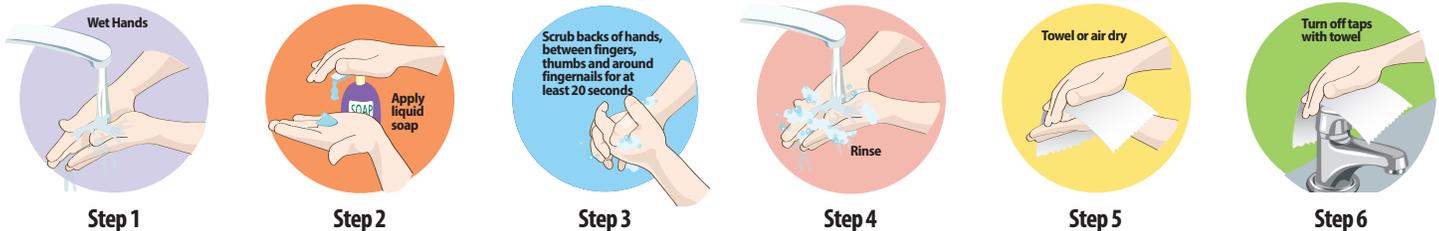
Consider messages such as 'wash your hands', 'cover your cough' or 'break the chain of infection'

Promote messaging through morning announcements:

Connect with your public health nurse to learn about our ready-to-use messages on hand hygiene!

Screensavers:

Choose a theme with key messages you would like to convey to staff who may see a computer screen (such as the '6 Steps for Handwashing Poster'). Consider inviting staff to utilize the screen saver during IPAC week.



IPAC fast facts:

Short messages about IPAC which reaches all staff at the same time. Use a method of communication such as an all-staff email or message board in staff room to communicate IPAC information from the Health Department. This concept could be used to share information with staff about an emerging infectious disease or a current IPAC issue in the school community. Consider having an IPAC-related message or short discussion at the beginning of school council meeting. Another great way to share with staff the school's plans to address this topic!

Interactive hand washing demonstrations:

Teach school community members about respiratory etiquette, hand hygiene and the basics of infection prevention and control! Take your class to the bathroom to demonstrate proper handwashing technique using the 6 steps.

Social media channels:

Consider promoting our Durham Healthy Families vlog titled 'Handwashing' on your school's social media channels so that messaging can reach parents and family members! Better yet, consider developing your own video with student leaders and school champions to help promote tips to stay healthy and reduce the spread of germs. Use social media to share your infection prevention and control activities and celebrations.

Newsletter Inserts:

Visit durham.ca/schools to access ready-to-use newsletter inserts on a variety of topics including: 'Keeping Hands Clean', 'Attending School or Child Care' and 'Where to Find Reliable Information about Vaccine Preventable Diseases and Other Infectious Diseases'

Curriculum support, posters & resources:

Check out our durham.ca/schools website for resources, helpful links and curriculum support documents

Commitment to hand hygiene pledge:

A display of hands pledging commitment to hand hygiene. Invite school community members to trace an outline of their hand and ask them to sign/decorate it to show the commitment they have made to IPAC by performing hand hygiene. Stick the finished product somewhere in the school such as the school entrance or near handwashing stations such as the washrooms.

IPAC reading focus:

Consider reading books to your students that incorporate infection prevention and control messages, especially those that discuss hand hygiene.

Consider launching IPAC initiatives at times such as:

- Infection Prevention Control Week (October)
- World Health Day (April)
- National Immunization Awareness Week (April)
- Rabies and Lyme Disease Awareness Month (May)

Or better yet, plan activities and initiatives that will span over the entire school year!

For more ideas and/or support with infection prevention and control promotion in your school contact your school's public health nurse, visit durham.ca/schools or contact Durham Health Connection Line at 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729.



HEALTH
DEPARTMENT

Durham Health Connection Line
905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729
durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

