

Infection Prevention and Control in Long-Term Care

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT:

Long term care (LTC) facilities across the province are home to approximately 8,000 citizens, most of whom are frail seniors susceptible to acquiring communicable diseases such as COVID-19 and suffering related complications due to increased fragility and a high prevalence of underlying chronic health conditions.

The purpose of this project is to assess Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) policies, processes, practices, resources, and accountability in Nova Scotia’s LTC Sector and implement a plan that will strengthen the sector’s preparedness for, and response to, infectious disease outbreaks.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

Implement an Infection Prevention and Control Initiative via the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) aimed at improving health outcomes for residents in DHW-licensed LTC facilities.

- Establish a joint sector-government IPAC advisory panel to inform an assessment of IPAC measures within the LTC sector;
- Conduct a review of current leading IPAC practices/measures with LTC;
- Conduct an IPAC assessment within NS’s LTC sector, inclusive of legislation/policies, workforce capacity and expertise, and infrastructure;
- Identify the tools, resources and education required to better support the LTC sector in IPAC;
- Develop options and key considerations, including a proposed plan to address identified gaps within the context of the broader health care system;
- Specifically, identify a monitoring and reporting structure, including regular auditing of IPAC measures within the context of space utilization, policies, and staff practices.

PROJECT APPROACH AND TIMELINES:

The following approach will be used to complete the work:



Completion Date: September 2020