

AT A GLANCE

- Outbreak test kit and requisition update
- Vaccine ordering and pick-up process
- Change in Tuberculosis terminology
- Get ready for National Infection Control Week!

Fall Respiratory Season

Respiratory season is here. To help your organization prepare for the 2026–2027 season, we encourage you to watch our [recorded preparedness session](#) for important public health updates.

The session covers key information about outbreak management, vaccination, and infection prevention. Additional tools and resources, including a fall preparedness checklist, are available on our [outbreaks webpage](#).

Outbreak Specimen Kits & Alerts

Outbreak Test Kits: Enteric and respiratory outbreak specimen kits can be picked up from any Lakelands Public Health office during business hours; you do not need to call ahead. Please check your inventory, remove any expired kits, and ensure that you have an adequate supply for respiratory season.

A new requisition will be provided when each outbreak is declared. Please recycle any outdated outbreak requisitions. Ensure that requisitions are completed in full and that specimens are tightly sealed to prevent rejection by the laboratory.

Outbreak Alerts: For alerts when new outbreaks are declared, click [here](#) to subscribe.

To see overall respiratory activity within the Lakelands Public Health region, visit our [Respiratory Infection Dashboard](#) for weekly updates.

Vaccine Ordering & Pick-Up Process

If you missed the October 8 vaccine pick-up, the next scheduled vaccine pick-up date is **Thursday, October 15, 2026**. After this date, please follow your regularly scheduled vaccine pick-up timeline.

For future vaccine orders, use one of the following methods:

1. Submit your order online via the [Vaccine Order Form](#) OR
2. Complete the [Seasonal Vaccine Order Form](#) and fax to (905) 885-5352.

Current temperature logs must be submitted with every vaccine order.

Tuberculosis Update

A new [Tuberculosis Screening Tool for LTC/RH](#) is available on our website. This document has been updated to reflect current TB standards and provides guidance for staff, residents, and volunteers.

Information for Health Care Providers: Latent TB is now referred to as **TB Infection**, and Active TB is now referred to as **TB Disease**, in alignment with the Canadian TB Standards 8th Edition. Please be diligent when selecting diagnosis and classification boxes on TB-related forms to ensure accurate reporting.

Lakelands IPAC Hub presents Connect & Learn

Join us for the upcoming Connect & Learn session hosted by your LPH IPAC Hub.

IPAC Week Made Easy, October 13 from 11:00am to 11:30am

- [National Infection Control Week](#) runs from October 19 to 23, 2026.
- Introducing our IPAC Week Toolkit, filled with simple, ready-to-use activities to help your team celebrate and promote infection prevention and control!
- Invites have been emailed. If you did not receive one, please contact ipachub@lakelandsph.ca.

Our next Connect & Learn session, taking place in November, will focus on **cohorting**. Watch your email for an invitation later this month.

Public Health Ontario: Hand Hygiene Program

Effective September 28, 2026, the Just Clean Your Hands program was replaced by Public Health Ontario's new [Hand Hygiene Program](#). The evidence- and theory-informed program helps health care organizations achieve and sustain improvements in hand hygiene practices.

The program includes an Implementation Guide and practical resources focused on four complementary strategies:

- **Education:** Reinforcing why, when and how to perform hand hygiene.
- **Environmental supports:** Helping ensure hand hygiene products are accessible, fully stocked, functional, and available where and when they are needed.

- **Habit formation:** Helping health care workers turn knowledge and good intentions into consistent daily actions.
- **Team-based problem solving:** Bringing leaders, role models, and frontline staff together to identify local barriers and develop practical solutions.

Education Opportunities

Breaking Down Abstracts: A Practical Approach for IPAC Professionals

- Thursday, October 22, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm
- 1 IPU will be provided by the Certification Board of Infection Control.
- [Click here to register](#)

Micro 101 – Laboratory Basics

- Tuesday, November 24, 2026, from 1:00pm to 2:00pm
- 1 IPU will be provided by the Certification Board of Infection Control.
- [Click here to register](#)

Leading Beyond Your Role: From Team Leadership to System Influence

- Tuesday, January 19, 2027, from 12:00pm to 3:00pm
- 3 IPU will be provided by the Certification Board of Infection Control.
- [Click here to register](#)

Webinars & Helpful Resources

Public Health Ontario Fall Respiratory Resources

- [2026–27 Respiratory Season Resources | Public Health Ontario](#)

Visit [IPAC Canada](#) to see upcoming webinars. Additional resources are listed here:

- [Seasonal Respiratory Pathogen Guide](#)
- [Recommendations for Outbreak Prevention and Control in Institutions and Congregate Living Settings](#)
- [Best Practices for the Prevention of Acute Respiratory Infection Transmission in All Health Care Settings](#)

Contact Us

IPAC Hub	ipachub@lakelandsph.ca
Outbreak & Infectious Disease Reporting	During business hours: Online Outbreak Reporting Form 1-844-575-4567 ext. 6 outbreaks@lakelandsph.ca Outside of business hours: 1-844-575-4567
Vaccine Information	Inquiries: immunization@lakelandsph.ca Vaccine Orders: Online Vaccine Order Form Faxed Vaccine Order Form vaccineorders@lakelandsph.ca