

PICNet milestones: 2005–2025

Celebrating 20 years of improving infection prevention control practices across the continuum of health care in BC



2005

(January) PICNet is created by the Ministry of Health (MoH), leading a Network/ Community of Practice.

The new network host two summits with IPC professionals and key partners, to develop a common vision and build a high-level road map.

2006

Following a needs assessment of health authority IPC programs, PICNet publishes their first guidelines and frameworks:

- Staffing and Core Competencies for Infection Control Programs.
- Respiratory Outbreak Guidelines Working Group formed in July 2006.

2007



First annual conference hosted, attended by 90 delegates. These conferences continue until 2018.

[PICNet's website](#) is launched to promote Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) resources broadly.

Respiratory Outbreak Prevention & Control Guidelines created in partnership with health authorities, approved by Steering Committee.

2008

Team co-authors its first academic article: "[Protecting the Health of Health Care Workers: A Global Perspective](#)"

Formation of data-sharing agreements in partnership with health authorities; data is also shared with the Ministry of Health.

Best Practice Guidelines created for Prevention and Control of Antibiotic-Resistant Organisms.

2009

First set of [online educational modules](#) designed for health care workers developed. Topic: prevention of surgical site infections.

Steering committee focused on guidelines formed; evaluation tool for reviewing and updating IPC guidelines developed.

Provincial [C. difficile infection \(CDI\)](#) surveillance is implemented by PICNet and health authorities in response to MoH mandate.

Image above: PICNet staff team in 2009.

2010

First of a series of physician educational sessions hosted, in collaboration with the First Nations and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB).

Provincial [Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus \(MRSA\)](#) surveillance begins.

2011

Formalized provincial [hand cleaning compliance monitoring](#) begins, in partnership with the Patient Voices Network. First report published in 2012.

Release of "[Gastrointestinal Infection \(GI\) Outbreak Guidelines for Healthcare Facilities.](#)"

Expansion of network scope:

- [Recommendations for reprocessing of flexible endoscopes](#)
- Injector sets and vials for CT in provincial medical imaging depts.

2012

Provincial guideline for [Best Practices in Environmental Cleaning](#) created.



Image: Melissa Crump and Missy Blackburn at PICNet Education Day, 2012.

2013

[CDI Toolkit](#) published, created in partnership with health authorities.



"[Lets go viral](#)" educational workshops begin, offered to all IPC professionals and health care workers in BC.

2014

Provincial CPO surveillance protocol developed with health authority partners.

"Clean Shots" photo contest held for the first time, promoting hand hygiene among health care workers. The contest receives national recognition.



2015

Formal partnership begins with the Provincial Health Officer to address emerging high-threat pathogens, such as Ebola.

PICNet hosts its [first Symposium](#), which is attended by 160 attendees. Discussion topics include [CPO](#) and [CDI](#) outbreaks.

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2016

[Recommendations for Cleaning and Disinfection of Medical Ultrasound to prevent HPV transmission, and for foot-care equipment](#), shared with partners to prevent and control infections in relevant health care settings and programs in BC.

2017

PICNet and provincial surveillance experts develop a position statement that guide decision-making for national-level reporting.

2018

Partnerships strengthened with health authorities, BCCDC and programs like Cardiac Services BC to deliver recommendations (cleaning, disinfecting equipment following cardiac surgery).

2019

[Recommendations for Management of Varicella Zoster in Health-Care Settings](#) published.

Provincial CDI target recommendations shared for the MoH Integrated Board Report in fiscal year 2019/20.

2020

During the COVID-19 pandemic, PICNet plays an integral role in co-leading and coordinating the IPC response, directed by Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, and in partnership with MoH, IPC and Workplace Health & Safety (e.g. gowns, masking, eye protection, etc.) across the health authorities.

2021

HOW TO CLEAN YOUR HANDS

Help us prevent the spread of infections

Between 2020 and 2021, PICNet and partners review over 75 provincial COVID-19 clinical and public health guidelines and resources to ensure the safety of workers and public.

The Network develops dozens of IPC resources for health care settings in collaboration with IPC, Workplace Health & Safety and MoH (e.g. entrance posters, guidelines, algorithms, etc.) posted on BCCDC.

Image above: PICNet team at strategic planning and team engagement event, November 2023.

Image below: PICNet team at Thee Eat team discussion, November 2025.

2022

PICNet launches a revised IPAC Basics online education module. Since its introduction in 2017, more than 248,000 health care workers have completed the course.

LearningHub



Annual in-person conferences restart; partners attend provincial [CPO and C. Auris symposiums](#) to collaborate for improvements to surveillance and to inform the provincial Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO) action plan.



Image: Provincial CPO Symposium 2024

2023

PICNet completes transition of 35+ COVID-specific resources and incorporates the details into general IPC and Viral Respiratory Illness resources available on [PICNet's website](#) (e.g. guidelines, posters, etc.)

PICNet strengthens partnership with health authorities and BCCDC Public Health Laboratory to generate enhanced provincial CPO reporting.

2024

PICNet partners with the health authorities to modernize the provincial [additional precautions signs](#) (originally created in 2017).

PICNet promotes World Hand Hygiene Day with a jeopardy game and photo contest to test health care provider knowledge.

Image : Interior Health team contest winner (May 2024)



2025

Updated [Interim IPC guidelines for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza](#) released.

Publication of revised or newly created [provincial IPC resources for high-threat pathogens](#), in partnership with the health authorities.

