Who Are Infection Preventionists?

Infection preventionists (IPs) are specially trained professionals, leaders, educators, and collaborators from diverse backgrounds, including nursing, public health, laboratory, and allied health fields.



IPs work on the frontlines to prevent infections in:



Acute care to critical access





Nursing homes to behavioral health





CLINICS

Ambulatory surgery to dialysis



HEALTH AGENCIES

Public health to government agencies

NON-HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

Schools to correctional and detention facilities



INDUSTRY SETTINGS

Manufacturers to supply chain companies





What Do IPs Do?

IPs promote a culture of safety and impact the health of patients, workers, staff, and community members. Their advocacy and work extend throughout the organization and the community.



HEALTHCARE QUALITY

- Performance improvement
- Incorporating evidence-based research into practice

EPIDEMIOLOGY

- Surveillance and reporting
- Technology and innovation

LEADERSHIP

- Change agents for process improvement
- Subject matter experts promoting evidencebased guidelines and science

HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

- · Hand hygiene
- Medical devices
- Surgical procedures
- Antimicrobial stewardship
- Diagnostic stewardship
- Standard and transmission-based precautions

SAFETY ADVOCACY

Promote a culture of safety for patients, staff, workers, and community members

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

- Response to new and emerging pathogens
- Pandemic preparedness
- Outbreak response
- Environmental disaster response

EDUCATION

- Team members
- Patients
- Community

ENVIRONMENT OF CARE

- Air and water quality
- Construction safety
- Cleaning, disinfection, sterilization
- Product evaluation





Who Do IPs Work With?





HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP

Senior Leaders, managers, and supervisors

HEALTHCARE DEPARTMENTS

Clinical:

Physicians, nurses, therapists, pharmacists

Operational:

Food and nutritional services, environmental services, supply chain, facility maintenance professionals

PUBLIC HEALTH

Local, state, federal



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

First responders, regional healthcare coalitions, healthcare associations

REGULATORY AGENCIES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Accrediting organizations

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)

INDUSTRY

Medical device manufacturers, medical equipment and supply vendors, industry clinical/science liaisons

Learn more about the infection preventionist profession

SKILLS AND ROLES

Who are Infection preventionists? apic.org/who-are-infection-preventionists

IPs Save Lives (APIC video)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rPk9XhA700

The Value of Infection Preventionists (APIC video) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=43WV-vYza8c&t

APIC Competency Model apic.org/infection-preventionist-ip-competency-model

HOW TO BECOME AN IP

Become an Infection Preventionist apic.org/what-is-an-infection-preventionist

Infection Preventionists: Healthcare Specialists Dedicated to Infection Prevention and Control apic.org/IP-fact-sheet

APIC IP Academic Pathway apic.org/ip-academic-pathway

