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:

**HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND HOSPITALS**
Acute care to critical access

**LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES**
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.

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

HEALTHCARE QUALITY
• Performance improvement
• Incorporating evidence-based research into practice

HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS
• Hand hygiene
• Medical devices
• Surgical procedures
• Antimicrobial stewardship
• Diagnostic stewardship
• Standard and transmission-based precautions

EPIDEMIOLOGY
• Surveillance and reporting
• Technology and innovation

LEADERSHIP
• Change agents for process improvement
• Subject matter experts promoting evidence-based guidelines and science

EDUCATION
• Team members
• Patients
• Community

ENVIRONMENT OF CARE
• Air and water quality
• Construction safety
• Cleaning, disinfection, sterilization
• Product evaluation

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
• Response to new and emerging pathogens
• Pandemic preparedness
• Outbreak response
• Environmental disaster response
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