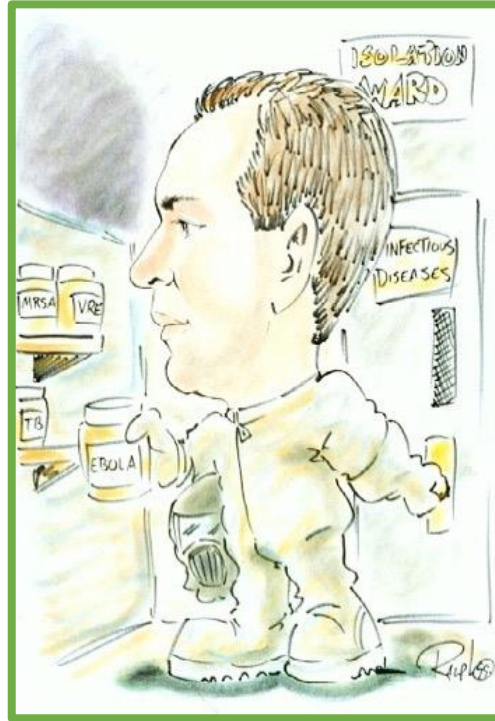


# COVID-19; An Infection Preventionist's 'Boots on the Ground' Perspective



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Infection Preventionist

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# Objectives

- Define what an infection preventionist is.
- Describe the 'boots on the ground' approach for mitigating the COVID risk.
- Summarize the importance with maintaining the non-COVID activities to prevent infection.

# What is an Infection Preventionist?

- Infection Preventionists (IPs) help to ensure healthcare workers, and patients, stay safe and prevent infections
- Non-COVID responsibilities include:
  - Looking for infection patterns/surveillance/data collection
  - Assessing workflow practices
  - Education (self, and others)
  - Advising leaders and public health
  - Engaging in committees

# What is an Infection Preventionist?

- Infection Preventionists (IPs) help to ensure healthcare workers, and patients, prevent infections
- Non-COVID responsibilities include:
  - Ensuring correct isolation precautions
  - Managing/preventing outbreaks
  - Promoting hand hygiene
  - Ensuring proper PPE use
  - Encouraging resident and staff vaccinations

# What is an Infection Preventionist?

- Infection Preventionists (IPs) help to ensure healthcare workers, and patients, prevent infections
- Non-COVID responsibilities include:
  - Developing policy and procedures
  - Partnering with public health, regulatory bodies, etc.
  - Assessing environmental health concerns
  - Collaborating with antibiotic stewardship efforts
  - Pandemic (next one!)/Emergency preparedness

# Infection Preventionist Resources

## Core components for effective infection prevention and control programmes: new WHO evidence-based recommendations



Julie Storr<sup>1</sup>, Anthony Twyman<sup>1</sup>, Walter Zingg<sup>2</sup>, Nizam Damani<sup>1</sup>, Claire Kilpatrick<sup>1</sup>, Jacqui Reilly<sup>3</sup>, Lesley Price<sup>3</sup>, Matthias Egger<sup>4</sup>, M. Lindsay Grayson<sup>5</sup>, Edward Kelley<sup>1</sup>, Benedetta Allegranzi<sup>1\*</sup> and the WHO Guidelines Development Group

## Requirements for Infrastructure and Essential Activities of Infection Control and Epidemiology in Hospitals: A Consensus Panel Report

William E. Scheckler, MD; Dennis Brimhall; Alfred S. Buck, MD; Barry M. Farr, MD; Candace Friedman, MPH, CIC; Richard A. Garibaldi, MD; Peter A. Gross, MD; Jo-Ann Harris, MD; Walter J. Hierholzer, Jr, MD; William J. Martone, MD; Linda L. McDonald, RN, MSPH, CIC; Steven L. Solomon, MD

Developed by APIC's Professional Development Committee, May 2019  
[apic.org/competencymodel](https://apic.org/competencymodel)

### Sample Job Description for the Infection Preventionist

#### Job Description

**Job Title:** Infection Preventionist

**Job Summary:**

The Infection Preventionist (IP) is responsible for identifying, investigating, monitoring, and reporting healthcare-associated infections. The IP collaborates with teams and individuals to create infection prevention strategies, provide feedback, and sustain infection prevention strategies.



Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

American Journal of Infection Control

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Practice Forum

### APIC professional and practice standards

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# What does 'Boots on the Ground' Mean?

- Ground troops who are on active service in a military operation<sup>1</sup>
- World War 1; “Boot” meant soldier<sup>2</sup>



1. Lexico English Dictionary. [https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/boots\\_on\\_the\\_ground](https://www.lexico.com/en/definition/boots_on_the_ground). Accessed November 7, 2020

2. BBC News. Where does the phrase 'boots on the ground' come from? <https://www.bbc.com/news/blogs-magazine-monitor-29413429>. Accessed November 7, 2020.

# COVID-19 meets the LTC Infection Preventionist

## **10. Infection Preventionist (IP):**

*During interview with facility administration and Infection Preventionist(s), determine the following:*

- ☐ *Did the facility designate one or more individual(s) as the infection preventionist(s) who are responsible for the facility's IPCP?*
- ☐ *Does the Infection Preventionist(s) work at least part-time at the facility?*
- ☐ *Has the Infection Preventionist(s) completed specialized training in infection prevention and control?*
- ☐ *Does the Infection Preventionist(s) participate in the quality assessment and assurance committee? The individual designated as the IP, or at least one of the individuals if there is more than one IP, must be a member of the facility's quality assessment and assurance committee and report to the committee on the IPCP on a regular basis.*

*Note: If no to any of the question above, consider citing F882.*

“Designate”...assign responsibility(?)...ask for volunteers(?)...create a new position(?)...?

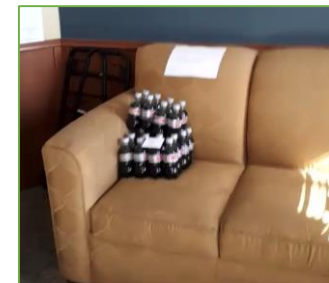


# COVID-19 Responsibilities

- Tracking COVID-19 cases
- Reporting to regulatory authorities
- Preparing for the COVID-19 vaccine
- Promoting hand hygiene, PPE adherence
- Developing competencies
- Screening for COVID-19 signs/symptoms at entry
- Creating policies and procedures
- Rounding in the environment

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# COVID-19 Responsibilities

- Following CDC/DOH guidance

## Nursing Home COVID-19 Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool Facilitator Guide

### How to use this ICAR tool

This tool is intended to help assess infection prevention and control (IPC) practices in **nursing homes without an active outbreak** of COVID-19. However, public health jurisdictions may choose to modify this tool to fit their needs beyond this defined scope (e.g., modifications to assess facilities experiencing an outbreak).

The tool is divided into **fourteen sections**:

# COVID-19 Responsibilities

- Following CDC/DOH guidance
- Validating social distancing
- COVID-19 laboratory testing
- Fit testing
- Tracking the news
- Aiding with visitation guidelines
- Assisting with bed management, cohorting
- And...“*Normal responsibilities*” + COVID duties



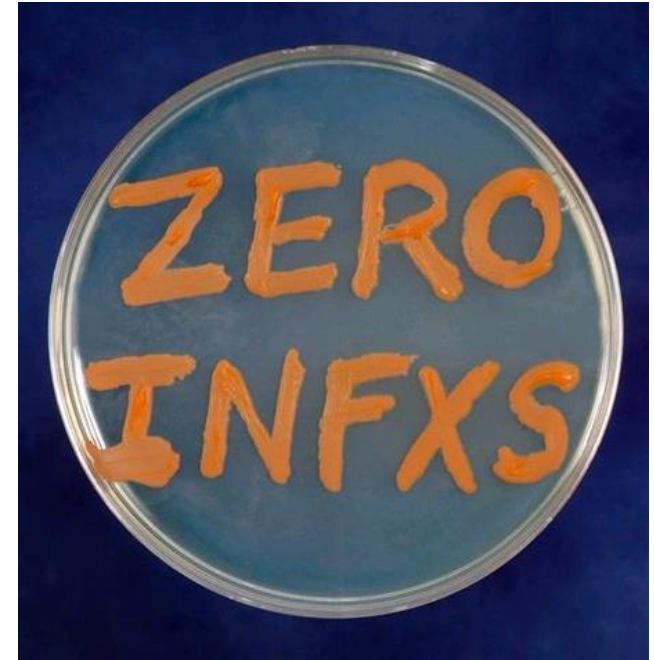
# COVID-19 Responsibilities



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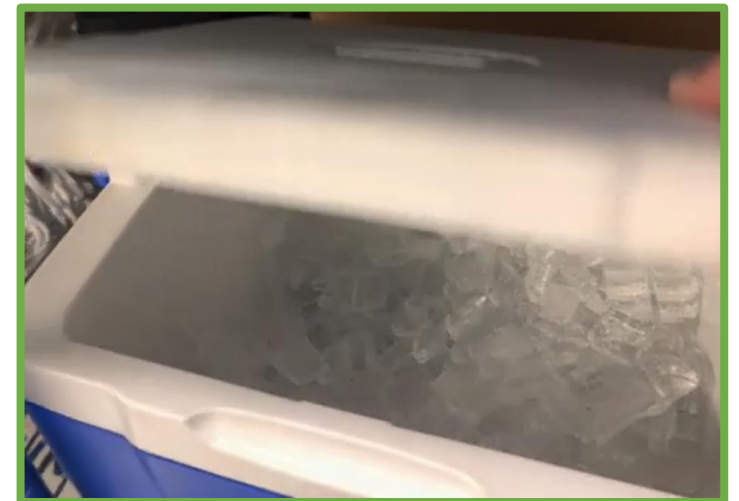
# “Normal Responsibilities” (Non-COVID)

- Look for infection patterns/surveillance/data collection
- Assess workflow practices
- Education
- Advise leaders and public health
- Committee engagement
- Policy and procedure development
- Partner with public health, regulatory bodies, etc.
- Environmental health
- Antibiotic stewardship
- Pandemic and emergency preparedness
- Isolation precautions
- Outbreak management
- Hand hygiene
- PPE use
- Resident and staff vaccinations
- Etc...



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# Thank You!!



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