

HOUSEKEEPING PROFESSIONAL TODAY

The Official Publication of the Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers Association (CHHA)  CHHA

Canada's New CPE Guidance

**What Every
EVS Department
Needs to Know...**



The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) recently released an updated national guidance for the prevention and control of Carbapenemase-Producing Enterobacterales (CPE) in healthcare settings. While CPE is not a new organism, the updated recommendations place increased emphasis on the important role of Environmental Services (EVS) in preventing the spread of antimicrobial-resistant organisms.

For EVS departments, the message is clear: *effective environmental cleaning and disinfection remain among the most*

important strategies for protecting patients, healthcare workers, and visitors.

What's New? The updated guidance includes several recommendations that directly impact healthcare environmental services teams, including:

- Greater emphasis on environmental cleaning practices and auditing.
- Updated recommendations for patient screening and contact precautions.
- New considerations for sink and drain management.
- Enhanced outbreak preparedness and response planning.

Increased collaboration between IPAC, facility management, and EVS teams.

Why It Matters to EVS: The updated guidance recognizes EVS as an essential partner in reducing the risk of transmission.

Daily and Terminal Cleaning: Patient rooms occupied by individuals with confirmed or suspected CPE require careful cleaning and disinfection of high-touch surfaces using a Health Canada-approved hospital disinfectant and following the manufacturer's recommended dwell time.

Following discharge or transfer, ter-

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Volunteer Today and Help Shape the Future of Canadian Healthcare Housekeeping

The Canadian Healthcare Housekeepers' Association (CHHA) is looking for passionate healthcare housekeeping and environmental services professionals to join the **CHHA Leadership Committee**.

This is your opportunity to have a direct voice in the future of CHHA and help ensure the association continues to reflect the needs, challenges, and successes of environmental services teams across Canada's healthcare system.

Every day, healthcare housekeeping/environmental services professionals play a vital role in protecting patients, residents, staff, and visitors through effective cleaning, disinfection, and infection prevention practices. As healthcare continues to evolve, CHHA wants to hear directly from the professionals who are adapting to new standards, technologies, and expectations while keeping healthcare environments safe.

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Canada's New CPE Guidance: What Every EVS Department Needs to Know

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minal cleaning should include all environmental surfaces, furnishings, shared equipment, privacy curtains, and any remaining supplies or items that could contribute to transmission risk.

PPE Remains Essential: EVS professionals cleaning CPE rooms should follow the same personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements as other healthcare workers entering rooms under contact precautions. Proper PPE use, combined with effective cleaning procedures, helps protect both staff and patients.

Don't Overlook the Drains: One of the most significant additions in the updated guidance is the recognition that sinks and drains can act as reservoirs for CPE.

Healthcare organizations are encouraged to establish preventive drain management practices, reduce the risk of splash contamination, designate sinks for hand hygiene only, and work closely with facility management to address potential environmental risks.

EVS During Outbreaks: During a CPE outbreak, EVS teams play an even greater role. Recommendations include increasing cleaning frequency, strengthening environmental audits, ensuring dedicated equipment is used for affected patients and involving EVS leadership in outbreak management discussions.

Five Questions Every EVS Leader Should Ask: As healthcare organizations review the updated guidance, EVS leaders should consider:

- Are our cleaning procedures aligned with current PHAC recommendations?
- Are staff following disinfectant manufacturer instructions, including required contact times?
- Have our terminal cleaning procedures been reviewed recently?
- Are drain management practices coordinated with facility management?
- Are we routinely auditing cleaning effectiveness and providing feedback to staff?

The Bottom Line: The updated PHAC guidance reinforces what EVS professionals have long understood – Environmental Services is fundamental to infection prevention and patient safety.

Every properly cleaned room, disinfected high-touch surface and well-trained EVS professional contributes to safer healthcare environments. As infection prevention practices continue to evolve, EVS teams remain on the front line – and Canada's new CPE guidance recognizes the critical role they play. CHHA is pleased to release an EVS Toolkit geared toward the new CPE Guidance. [Download Your Copy Today!](#)

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Volunteer Today and Help Shape the Future of Healthcare Housekeeping

As a volunteer member of the CHHA Leadership Committee, you will be invited to participate in a one-hour virtual meeting each month with colleagues from across Canada. You'll have the opportunity to share your experiences, discuss emerging trends and operational challenges, provide valuable feedback on CHHA initiatives, and help shape the educational resources, professional development opportunities, and member programs that support healthcare housekeeping professionals nationwide.

Whether you work in acute care, long-term care, rehabilitation, mental health, ambulatory care, or another healthcare setting, your knowledge and perspective can make a meaningful difference. By volunteering, you'll help ensure CHHA remains responsive, relevant, and focused on the priorities that matter most to frontline environmental services professionals.

If you're passionate about advancing the profession, supporting your peers, and contributing to the future of healthcare housekeeping in Canada, we encourage you to put your name forward. Join the CHHA Leadership Committee and become part of a national network of professionals dedicated to strengthening environmental services, improving patient safety, and advancing excellence in healthcare housekeeping. [LEARN MORE](#)

Celebrate International Housekeeping & Environmental Services Awareness Week — September 13–19, 2026

International Housekeeping & Environmental Services Awareness Week is just around the corner, providing the perfect opportunity to recognize the dedicated professionals who work tirelessly behind the scenes to create safe, clean, and healthy healthcare environments.

From preventing the spread of infection to supporting patient recovery and enhancing the experience of everyone who enters a healthcare facility, environmental services teams make an extraordinary difference every day. This special week is an opportunity to celebrate their commitment, professionalism, and invaluable contributions.

Now is the time to begin planning activities that show your appreciation. Consider organizing staff recognition events, wellness initiatives, team celebrations, educational sessions, or professional development opportunities. It's also the perfect time to [nominate outstanding individuals and teams](#) who consistently go above and beyond.

To help celebrate, CHHA will recognize every nomination received by providing a personalized recognition certificate for each nominee. In addition, photos submitted from your Awareness Week celebrations will be featured in an upcoming edition of **Housekeeping Professional Today**, showcasing the exceptional people and teams making a difference in healthcare facilities across Canada.

Stay tuned! Next month, CHHA will also be releasing a collection of downloadable Awareness Week posters that EVS departments can display throughout their facilities to help recognize and celebrate their teams.

Let's make this year's **International Housekeeping & Environmental Services Awareness Week** our biggest celebration yet by shining a spotlight on the professionals who help keep Canada's healthcare facilities safe, every single day.



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