



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### ***Infection Prevention and Control: Practice and Participate*** ***National Infection Control Week – October 15 – 19, 2007***

“Infection Prevention and Control: Practice and Participate” is the theme of this year’s National Infection Control Week, October 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Manitoba's Infection Control Week is being led by the Community and Hospital Infection Control Association (CHICA) Manitoba Chapter, with the support of the Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety (MIPS).

CHICA Canada estimates 220,000 health care associated infections, including 8,000 related deaths, occur nationally each year. Over 50% of these infections are preventable. During Infection Control Week, we would like to remind all Manitobans they play an important role in decreasing the number of preventable deaths due to infection.

The prevention and control of infection is everybody’s business! Every Manitoban can practice and participate in preventing infections by:

- Cleaning your hands frequently
- Asking your health care providers to clean their hands
- Covering your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze
- Keeping your immunizations up to date

CHICA Manitoba is one of 20 Canadian chapters that form CHICA-Canada, a national, multidisciplinary, voluntary association of Infection Control Professionals. CHICA Manitoba is dedicated to maintaining the health of Manitobans by promoting excellence in the practice of infection prevention and control. Infection Control Professionals play a critical role in safeguarding the health of Manitobans – patients in hospitals, residents in long-term care facilities, children in daycares, students in schools, and individuals in the community.

The Manitoba Institute for Patient Safety promotes, coordinates, and facilitates activities that have a positive impact on patient safety throughout Manitoba, while enhancing the quality of health care for Manitobans.

CHICA Manitoba and MIPS are working toward a mutual goal of quality health care for all Manitobans; we encourage Manitobans to ‘Practice and Participate’ in achieving safer health care.

#### **For more information:**

Visit CHICA Manitoba Chapter’s web site ([www.chica.org/MANITOBA/index.html](http://www.chica.org/MANITOBA/index.html)) for infection prevention and control information and to download Infection Control Week posters and tent cards.

OR

Contact your Infection Control Professional in your local facility or community for further information on activities planned for National Infection Control Week.

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