

# Occupational Health and Safety

## Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
<b>Core Competencies</b>	Basic (core) knowledge elements or competencies related to infection prevention and control that are required by all Health Care Workers in Ontario.
<b>Hazard</b>	An occupational hazard is a thing or situation with the potential to harm a Worker. A safety hazard causes accidents that physically injure Workers. A health hazard results in the development of disease.
<b>Health and Safety Representative</b>	A non-management individual chosen by Workers in a workplace that has less than 20 but greater than 5 employees, who is responsible for inspecting the workplace at least once per month to identify situations that may be a source of danger or hazard to Workers.
<b>Health Care Provider</b>	Any person delivering care to a client/patient/resident. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: emergency service workers, physicians, dentists, nurses, respiratory therapists and other health professionals, personal support workers, clinical instructors, students and home health care workers. In some non-acute settings, volunteers might provide care and would be included as health care providers. See also, <i>Staff</i> .
<b>Hierarchy of Controls</b>	The hierarchy of controls is a ‘model’ for hazard control. The hierarchy of controls describes control measures for any hazard as being directed either at the source of the hazard, along the path to the workers, or at the workers themselves. The use of the hierarchy of controls for any hazard is considered a best practice when dealing with the hazards of infectious agents.
<b>Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)</b>	Practices and procedures that help prevent or reduce the risk of transmission of microorganisms to staff, clients/patients/residents or visitors.
<b>Internal Responsibility System (IRS)</b>	A system in which every individual is responsible and accountable for health and safety, including Employers, Supervisors and Workers.
<b>Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC)</b>	A committee composed of Workers and management required at any workplace that employs 20 or more Workers, to identify situations that may be a hazard and to make recommendations for improvements in health and safety.

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<b>Occupational Health</b>	Health services for employees in the workplace provided by trained occupational health nurses and physicians.
<b>Occupational Illness</b>	A condition that results from exposure to a physical, chemical or biological agent to the extent that the health of the Worker is impaired, including occupational disease recognized under the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act.
<b>Occupational Injury</b>	An injury that arises out of, and in the course of, employment.
<b>Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC)</b>	A multidisciplinary, scientific advisory body that provides evidence-based advice regarding multiple aspects of infectious disease identification, prevention and control.
<b>Routine Practices</b>	The infection prevention and control practices that must be used routinely during all activities to reduce the infection risks to you and to clients/patients/residents and to control the transmission of microorganisms in all health care settings.
<b>Staff</b>	Anyone conducting activities in settings where health care is provided, including but not limited to, health care providers. See also, <i>Health Care Providers</i> .