

**Date:** December 2018



## Influenza Vaccine

Everyone – influenza is upon us. We have had positive cases and some very complicated ones already.

You might feel you are invincible and can tolerate the flu. However, those around you probably cannot. The younger or older loved ones are always more susceptible to complications from influenza. Also, working in healthcare we are surrounded with individuals with weakened immune systems. Before you might personally feel the symptoms of the flu, you could be spreading it to others.

We need to ensure our vaccine rates are high. In doing so you are not only protecting yourself BUT also our patients and your family. You do not want to be the person that spreads influenza to others.

Our numbers are slightly up as compared to the same time last year. Please take the time to get you flu shot in the community or in the hospital. It takes minutes and can save a life.

**Any staff that receive their influenza vaccination from a WRH pharmacist will receive a \$2 Tim Horton's gift card.**

The seasonal influenza vaccine is now available in the following areas:

We Care Pharmacy – Ouellette campus

- Monday to Friday
- 9am to 5pm

Cancer Centre Pharmacy – Met campus

- Monday to Friday
- 8:30am to 4:30pm

Health office - Met & Ouellette campus

- Monday to Friday
- 10am to Noon
- 2pm to 3:30pm

**AS A REMINDER, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR HEALTH CARD.**

**Are you working this holiday season ?**

Needless to say, an individual's health concerns do not have a holiday season. Although we do experience a drop in hospital visits on Christmas Day, we all know there comes a sharp increase shortly thereafter. Many people go out of their way to avoid coming into the hospital on a holiday like Christmas in order to share that day with their family. However, many times it is "mind over body" and whatever health issues they are suffering with quickly re surface once the actual celebration ends.

However, how about you as an employee? Some of you enjoy working on holidays while others do not. The following is an article that highlights some of the benefits those that like working holidays enjoy:

<https://www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/health-sciences/blog/benefits-of-working-holiday-in-healthcare/>

For those that might not enjoy working a holiday, the following article outlines how you can make it more positive than negative:

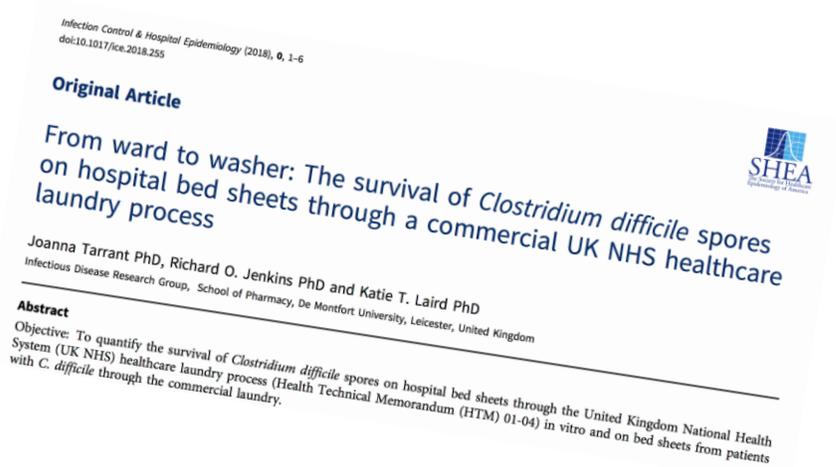
<https://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/working-the-holidays-in-healthcare>



We all know what is important is our patients in hospital during a holiday do not want to be there. They would rather be anywhere else. Therefore, if you are working on an actual holiday, we have to remember we are their family for that day and we can celebrate the holiday with them and bring some joy to both our days.

Please have a great holiday season. Be safe and enjoy time with your loved ones.

## **The survival of Clostridium difficile spores on hospital bed sheets?**



A couple of months ago a study was published (see link below) in *Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology* entitled “From ward to washer: The survival of Clostridium difficile spores on hospital bed sheets through a commercial UK NHS healthcare laundry process.”

[https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/8CEAE6BE5F6DFF8FC6543FD4E9726827/S0899823X18002556a.pdf/from\\_ward\\_to\\_washer\\_the\\_survival\\_of\\_clostridium\\_difficile\\_spores\\_on\\_hospital\\_bed\\_sheets\\_through\\_a\\_commercial\\_uk\\_nhs\\_healthcare\\_laundry\\_process.pdf](https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/8CEAE6BE5F6DFF8FC6543FD4E9726827/S0899823X18002556a.pdf/from_ward_to_washer_the_survival_of_clostridium_difficile_spores_on_hospital_bed_sheets_through_a_commercial_uk_nhs_healthcare_laundry_process.pdf)

The study found that conventional laundering methods for hospital bed sheets left 60% of *Clostridium difficile* spores behind, increasing the risk of contaminating other bed linens and patients.

Our team immediately noticed the study and there has been a lot of discussion – which is great – between many on our healthcare team about the report and its application to Canada, Ontario and Windsor Regional Hospital.

As a result, we reached out to the company that does our linen laundering and they were aware of the study and shared with us some information.

The good news is there are significant differences in the process parameters between the UK and Canada. The Association for Linen Management outlines the significant differences in process parameters in the attached document and article.

A Review of the U.S. Healthcare Wash Process for Hygienically-Clean Textiles  
[https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Common/A Review of the U.S. Healthcare Wash Process for Hygienically Clean Textiles.pdf](https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Common/A%20Review%20of%20the%20U.S.%20Healthcare%20Wash%20Process%20for%20Hygienically%20Clean%20Textiles.pdf)

ADVACARE Kills C-Diff on linen and in wash water (Poster)  
<https://www.wrh.on.ca/uploads/Common/ADVACARE%20C%20Diff.pdf>

The most significant difference of which, is the use of Peracetic Acid as a souring agent in the UK, and a disinfectant in North America. As well, this study uses a washer extractor, where most industrial healthcare laundries use Continuous Batch Washers (CBW's or Tunnel Washers) for laundering the majority of soiled textiles.

Our Linen supplier partners with Ecolab, the largest health care textile chemistry supplier on this continent, who oversees its wash process and formulations. Our Linen supplier has process parameters monitored on a load-by-load basis and quality assurance standards that are monitored on a shift-by-shift basis. If during the processing of textiles the time, temperature or chemistry parameters have not been met, the washer automatically shuts down, provides an audible warning to the technician, and waits for the issue to be resolved, before restarting.

As issues continue to develop in this area our Infection Control team will share their findings.

