



## Nov-Dec 2011



**Congratulations to Karen Taylor  
on attaining CIC designation!  
Certified in Infection Control**

**There are only 56 Board Certified in Infection Control in CT!**

**Go to <http://www.cbic.org/> for information on taking the exam**

### **1 MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**The next Infection Prevention Class will be starting on February 24<sup>th</sup>  
at The Village Green of Wallingford. Contact Karen Taylor at  
[karentayloricn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karentayloricn@sbcglobal.net)**

**ICNC SPRING SEMINAR APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> AT THE AQUA TURF!**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN INFECTION PREVENTION



**Social Determinants of Health**, such as the lack of paid sick leave, number of children and crowding in the household led to a greater exposure risk among various racial/ethnic sub-populations in the U.S during the H1N1 pandemic. The study published in the American Journal of Public Health found that Hispanics had the greatest risk of an influenza like illness due to these social determinates. It concludes that federal mandates for sick leave could have a significant impact in reducing influenza like illness, especially in Hispanics.



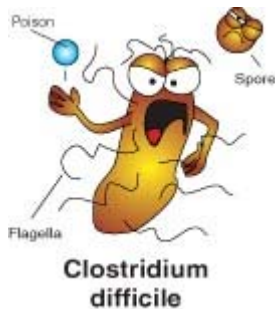
**Presenteeism**, attending work when ill, occurs more frequently when people have job insecurity, feel socially obligated or work in teams. Caregivers and teachers in early education have higher rates of presenteeism than other professions. A study from Concordia University, published in the Journal of Occupational Health Psychology finds that working when ill is not productive and should be examined by organizations.



**The United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS** reports that world AIDS deaths and new HIV infections have each dropped 21% since the epidemic began. They outlined a six part plan on how to continue to decrease the incidence of HIV/AIDS.

1. A focus on key populations at risk in each nation, particularly on sex workers and their clients, men who have sex with men, and people who inject drugs.
2. Eliminate HIV infections among children by treating pregnant women with HIV.
3. Behavior change programs.
4. Condom promotion and distribution.
5. Treatment, care, and support for people with HIV infection.
6. Voluntary medical male circumcision in nations with high HIV prevalence

For more information, go to <http://aids.gov/>



**“Fecal transplants,”** fecal microbiota transplant (FMT), has been demonstrated in 3 research studies to be effective in treating C.difficile that has not responded to conventional treatments. Dr. Mellow of the Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City reported that 98% of the patients who had not responded to a mean of five previous treatment courses saw a quick resolution of their symptoms with FMT. Feces are taken from a donor, usually a relative but can be anyone, and mixed with saline and delivered during a colonoscopy.



Enjoy your food this holiday as research shows that if you have a body mass index at the lower end of the normal range, you are more likely to die within 30 days of the procedure than those moderately overweight!! Turrentine F, et al "The relationship between body mass index and 30-day mortality risk, by principal surgical procedure" *Arch Surg* 2011; DOI: 10.1001/archsurg.2011.310.



**Norovirus causes food allergies?** Research at the Medical College of Wisconsin has found a possible link between norovirus and food allergies. Mice infected with norovirus were fed egg protein and the researchers are looking for an IgE response to signify an allergic reaction. Every 3 minutes a food allergy sends a child to the ER!



### **Chewing gum might prevent inner ear infections!**

Xylitol, a natural sweetener found in mints and gum appears to inhibit bacteria according to researchers at the University of Toronto. More study is needed to look at this possible alternative to antibiotic use.



### **Antibiotics in Long Term Care**

- Antibiotics are among the most commonly prescribed medications in long-term care facilities.
- Up to 70% & of long-term care facilities' residents receive an antibiotic every year.
- Estimates of the cost of antibiotics in the long-term care setting range from \$38 million to \$137 million per year



Check that housekeeping is following the correct label directions for dwell time of disinfectants. Most disinfectants require 10 minutes or longer. 'Tis the season for BUGS!!! Keep everyone healthy.

**GET VACCINATED...**

It's National Influenza Vaccination Week

[www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)



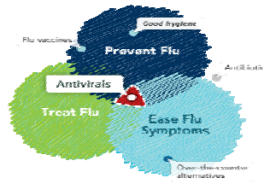
**December 4-10<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

Only 3 out of 5 nurses and other health care workers get vaccinated against the flu! Continue to work on your staff to get vaccinated through the different materials found at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/index.htm>

## RESOURCES



[www.flufacts.com](http://www.flufacts.com)



Great site for patient and health care professional resources on staying flu free.



<http://www.vaccines.com/>

**ImmYou<sup>SM</sup>**  
Essential truths about immunization

Sanofi Pasteur has a new web site that answers parents' questions about immunizations as well as provides reference tools for health care professionals.



**FDA** U.S. Food and Drug Administration

<http://www.fda.gov/MedicalDevices/ProductsandMedicalProcedures/HomeHealthandConsumer/ConsumerProducts/Sharps/ucm20025647.htm>

New FDA web site for patients and caregivers on how to dispose of sharps safely whether at home, work or travelling.



**Nanobugs**-microbes with an attitude: a fun website on microbes! Great teaching tools for health professionals and teachers to teach about infection prevention

<http://www.nanobugs.com/>

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**ICNC SPRING SEMINAR APRIL 27<sup>TH</sup> AT THE AQUA TURF: HOST IS THE NEW HAVEN CHAPTER**

**Reminder: all food workers with undiagnosed diarrhea or vomiting must be out of work for 72 hrs after the end of the symptoms. Call your local health to let them know.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!**

**Don't forget to renew your ICNC membership.**

