

Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program

A Formative Evaluation in Continuing Care Settings

In late 2020/21, AHS launched a [Provincial PPE Safety Coach Program](#).

The purpose of this formative **evaluation** was to assess the program implementation in continuing care.

Methodology/Data Collection

Qualitative Analysis

Timeframe: Sep 1, 2021 - Jun 30, 2022.

Tools: Survey, Interviews

Participants: PPE Safety Coaches, AHS Staff, Physicians, Leaders, Program Development Members

Quantitative Analysis

Timeframe: Dec 15, 2020 - Sep 30, 2022.

Tools: Administrative and audit data

Successes



The program was **well received** by designates, coaches and staff in adopting facilities.



The Community of Practice is a highly valued activity.



Inappropriate use of PPE **decreased by 10%** from pre-training (27.9%) to post-training (17.6%).



The mean IPC audit risk score **improved significantly** indicating greater compliance with IPC requirements.



1/3 of eligible continuing care facilities implemented the program.

Possible reasons for lower than anticipated uptake of the funding and program

- Timing of the program launch in relation to other site demands, e.g., outbreaks
- Ongoing staffing challenges and lack of staff availability/time to complete the training
- Confusion about the program's content and objectives relative to other PPE programs

Limitations

- A targeted email strategy was used to distribute the surveys. This resulted in a good response rate from some but not all categories of respondents.
- The interview recruitment strategy relied on survey respondents to opt-in (convenience sample) to comply with ethical evaluation principles and privacy protection recommendations. Participation from rural areas was limited.

Areas for Improvement

- **Continue** to develop the program's communication strategy to increase adoption;
- **Tailor** module scenarios for continuing care settings;
- **Enhance** opportunities to use ongoing support structures, such as the highly valued community of practice; and,
- **Review** ways to ensure the training is accessible to staff whose first language is not English.