

## POSITION STATEMENT

### ISSUE

Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Strategy *and* Alberta Hand Hygiene Strategy

### BACKGROUND

On January 17, 2008 the province of Alberta released two strategies, the *Alberta Infection Prevention and Control Strategy* and the *Alberta Hand Hygiene Strategy*, to improve infection prevention and control and hand hygiene behaviours within Alberta's health system and in all Alberta communities. These strategies identify the need for the establishment and strengthening of partnerships with health professional regulatory bodies and organizations to fulfill the objectives of their strategies.

### CIPHI ALBERTA'S POSITION

CIPHI Alberta fully supports the above strategies and their objectives. Further, CIPHI Alberta believes that its members can be knowledgeable and active participants and partners in successfully implementing the objectives and goals of both documents. As the Government of Alberta embarks in commencing these strategies, we encourage that the role and strengths of Environmental Public Health Professionals working for the Regional Health Authorities be recognized and utilized.

Environmental Public Health Professionals (EPHPs), such as Public Health Inspectors and Environmental Health Officers, have traditionally been involved in promoting, advocating, and regulatory enforcement of legislation related to hand hygiene and infection control practices in Alberta. This has been and continues to be one of the functions and roles of EPHPs through a variety of means and in a variety of environments, such as:

- Protection and enforcement through Public Health legislation in:
  - ⇒ Food Establishments (restaurants, food stores, etc.)
  - ⇒ Child Care facilities (daycares, playschools, schools, etc.)
  - ⇒ Personal Service Facilities (barbershops, tattoo parlours, body piercing, etc.)
  - ⇒ General public premises and conveyances (washrooms, community events, etc.)
  - ⇒ Health care facilities (continuing care, acute care, etc.)
  - ⇒ Housing facilities and group settings (senior's lodges, group homes, etc.)
- Educators and promoters in safe food handling practices, communicable disease prevention, and infection control practices in public and private settings.
- Members of the Canada Alberta Partners in Food Safety and other promotion/education programs (FightBAC) that advocate hand hygiene and infection control.

### ABOUT CIPHI ALBERTA

Incorporated in 1934, the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors (CIPHI) is committed to the advancement and promotion of Environmental Public Health in Canada. As one of the provincial branches, CIPHI Alberta is tasked with representing CIPHI and its' members in Alberta, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

CIPHI's mission is to advance the profession, science and field of environmental public health through certification, advocacy, education and setting standards. We protect the health of Canadians and represent environmental public health professionals across Canada.