



# Infection Prevention Campaign

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE INFECTION PREVENTION COACH PROGRAM

### **Q: What is the Infection Prevention Campaign?**

**A:** The Infection Prevention Campaign (IPC) program was launched by collaboration between 1199SEIU UHWE, GNYHA and the 1199SEIU TEF in September 2007, to assist hospitals in their efforts to reduce health care-associated infections (HAIs). The IPC program develops and empowers frontline health care workers (HCW) to become infection control coaches and advocate on behalf of patients.

### **Q: Why is this program so important?**

**A:** Health care-associated infections are a major cause of complications and death among hospitalized patients. Such infections affect nearly 2 million patients a year in the United States and are responsible for approximately 80,000 deaths each year.<sup>2</sup> HAIs can be prevented and frontline HCWs are the most important defense against HAIs. As health care workers and IPC Coaches you can make a difference in your patient's outcomes by simply adhering to strict hand hygiene compliance, getting your flu shots, and keeping the environment clean.

### **Q: Don't hospitals have infection control departments responsible for reducing infections?**

**A:** Engaging front-line hospital employees, who are union members in order to enhance and complement the work of infection control departments is a core aspect of the IPC program. Thus, while all hospitals have employee infection control practitioners who are responsible for implementing an infection control program. The IPC coaches are at the frontline of care.





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**Q: What are examples of training and tools the coach can provide?**

**A:** The IPC coach is provided with educational flyers, DVD video, posters, on-line tools, and products to provide visual training on hand hygiene techniques and environmental cleaning, the IPC coach is also taught how to effectively communicate with colleagues, including doctors, on how to remind them to wash their hands. Some examples of training include introducing staff to the IPC program goals and coaches, teaching proper hand hygiene practices and demonstrating effective hand hygiene by using the Glo-germ product.

**Q: What role does the IPC coach have on their unit or department?**

**A:** Coaches should be involved in coordination of hospital infection control practices with their union organizers and hospital infection control coordinators. In order for the IPC program to be successful the supervisor and union organizer should support and assist the IPC coach in planning programs, enforcing hand-hygiene compliance, create a culture on the unit that supports the goals of the IPC program, and intervene when the IPC coach encounters resistance.

**Q: How can I apply to become an IPC coach or get further information about the program?**

**A:** If you're interested in becoming an IPC coach, please contact your union organizer. For further information on the program itself, please contact Daniel Bustillo at the 1199SEIU Training and Employment Funds at 212-494-0530 or [Daniel.Bustillo@labormanagementproject.org](mailto:Daniel.Bustillo@labormanagementproject.org).



For more information please visit: [www.labormanagementproject.org](http://www.labormanagementproject.org)