

Creation of Infection Control for Emergency Responders (ICER) Collaborative and Training Hub: Challenges, Needs, and Progress in Year 1

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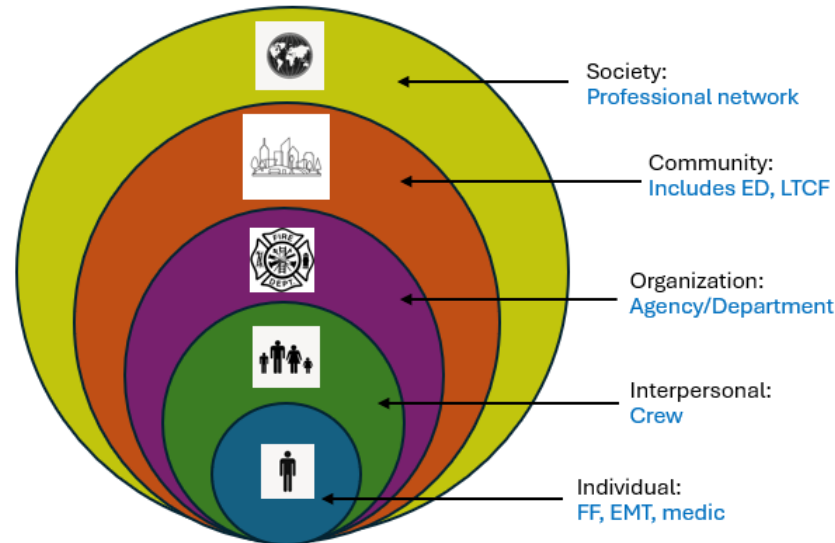
Background

- Response to the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the essential role of prehospital care personnel.
- Emergency medical services personnel (EMS) & the fire service (FFs) not included in traditional definition of HCW.
- Established guidelines & IPC training materials, such as Project First Line (PFL), may need adaptation to address the risk of exposure & infectious diseases in this unique setting.

Objectives

1. Understand the critical role of emergency responders in IPC efforts.
2. Identify challenges, needs, and progress in year 1 of an IPC needs assessment with firefighters and EMS personnel.
3. Discuss next steps for development of training materials & growth of ICER

Socio-Ecological Model



Themes

- Lack of trusted sources of information/ Perceived mistrust of traditional sources
- Risk perception and value of IPC training
- Variety of settings, agencies, & personnel: rural/urban, volunteer/career, minimal training/advanced career training, apathetic vs. active safety culture
- Need for less traditional training delivery methods: shift & budget challenges
- Barriers: Burnout, competing interests, agency & individual priorities, awareness, health beliefs
- **Willingness to participate & collaborate, agreement with need for IPC training**

Next Steps

- Input from field and agency representatives for revision/focus of existing PFL materials.
- Surveys slated for distribution June-September 2024.
- Creation of advisory board
- Development of materials for problem-based learning, simulation, & feedback
- Defining individual & local relevancy at each site.
- Continued focus on outreach.



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