FREE CHECK LIST INCLUDED!

CONSTRUCTION IN HEALTHCARE

New construction, renovations, or routine fixes—every project matters when the safety of your residents is on the line!

Infection prevention and control isn't just a box to be ticked; it's a critical foundation that should be a top priority from day one of any construction project. When you plan for IPAC from the start, you protect your team, your timeline, and your residents—keeping your healthcare construction project safe, smooth, and fully compliant every step of the way.

Construction Risks

Legionella

- Waterborne pathogen.
- Can be introduced into man-made water via construction
- Can kill 1 in every 4 infected residents*

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, January 29). About Legionella. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. https://www.cdc.gov

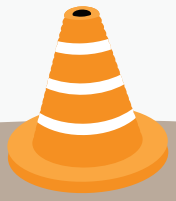
Aspergillus

- Fungal pathogen
- Commonly found in undisturbed building structures
- Most cases of Aspergillus are directly linked to construction activities
- Up to 50% mortality rate.**

**Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024, April 24). About Aspergillosis. U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. https://www.cdc.gov

Health & Safety

- Construction dust can contaminate medication rooms and medications.
- Construction air can compromise air quality, potentially worsening symptoms for residents, visitors & staff—especially those with conditions like asthma.
- Unattended equipment can result in resident harm, especially in behavioral support units.



TIP FROM OUR IPAC CONSULTANTS:

During a construction project, registered staff can also help with assessing the symptoms of residents in adjacent areas, to detect any signs of unusual infections!

IPAC CONSULTING
1 (866) 299-4722 info@ipacconsulting.com www.ipacconsulting.com

When Should IPAC Be Involved?

DESIGN PHASE

Incorporating Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) early in the design phase of healthcare construction projects. Doing so ensures:

- Engineering controls are embedded to reduce the risk of infection transmission.
- The facility is fully aligned with regulatory requirements from the outset.
- Building systems are designed for long-term sustainability and ongoing infection control.

PLANNING PHASE

Before any construction begins, regardless of the project's size, it's essential to integrate IPAC measures into the planning process. This is the most cost-effective phase to implement these protocols, ensuring that all stakeholders, from small renovations to large-scale builds, are fully informed of IPAC expectations from the start. Addressing this early minimizes costly adjustments later on.

CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Throughout the construction phase, strict adherence to IPAC measures is required. Regular on-site audits help monitor compliance and ensure that infection prevention protocols are consistently followed, safeguarding the health and safety of future occupants.

COMMISSIONING PHASE

When construction activities have been completed and the building is ready to be occupied, an IPAC evaluation of the completed space ensures that there is no remaining dust or debris, and that all the building systems are functioning as intended. This final inspection ensures the safety of the space prior to occupancy by residents

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Construction Kick-Off IPAC Readiness Checklist

Use this tool before the first contractor walks onsite. Designed for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes.

[ ] IPAC Lead assigned and available

[ ] Construction zones mapped out, with high-risk resident areas clearly marked

[ ] HEPA filters and dust containment strategies selected and ordered

[ ] Access points planned and rerouting for residents/staff confirmed

[ ] Staff and contractor IPAC training booked or completed

[ ] Pre-construction meeting with Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) scheduled

[ ] Water system assessment complete and Legionella management plan reviewed

[ ] Waste handling, traffic flow, and material movement plans approved

[ ] Emergency stop-work protocol in place and shared with team

[ ] Permits and Ministry notifications (if applicable) submitted

[ ] Communication plan for staff, residents, and families drafted

Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Members

List your key contacts below to keep everyone aligned.

Role	Name	Contact Info
IPAC Lead		
Director of Care (DOC)		
Environmental Services Lead		
Maintenance/Facility Manager		
Administrator/ED		
Project Manager/Contractor		
Health & Safety Rep (if any)		