

Visioning Activity: Future Headlines

Purpose

This activity encourages participants to think beyond current challenges and envision what success could look like for infection prevention and control (IPC) in their facility. By imagining a positive future state, participants can identify shared goals, desired outcomes, and opportunities for improvement.

Activity Instructions

Imagine it's three years in the future and this same group of people has gathered to celebrate all the progress your facility has made in infection prevention and control. Suddenly, someone rushes into the room holding a newspaper. "It's here!" they shout. "The article about our facility was published today!" The article highlights your facility's IPC successes and the positive changes that have occurred over the past three years.

What is the headline?

Working together, create a newspaper headline, or even the opening paragraph of a news article that describes your facility's IPC achievements. Think about what would be aspirational yet realistic (no one is discovering aliens or creating world peace). What would make you proud? What would indicate meaningful progress?

Using this Activity with Healthcare Partners

Consider using the headlines and themes generated during the exercise as a starting point for a broader conversation about goals, priorities, and opportunities for collaboration.

Potential discussion questions include:

- What accomplishments are being celebrated?
- What has improved for residents, patients, staff, or visitors?
- What challenges have been addressed?
- What does a strong culture of infection prevention look like in your facility?
- What is staff doing differently?
- What systems or processes are working better?
- What outcomes would indicate success?
- How would residents, patients, families, or staff describe these improvements?

Participants do not need to answer every question. Select the questions that are most relevant to the facility, audience, available time, and goals for the discussion.

Visioning Activity: The Why Word Cloud

Purpose

This activity encourages participants to revisit the “why” behind the work and think through the importance of infection prevention and control.

Activity Instructions

As a group, brainstorm words or short phrases that answer the question, “why is IPC important in our facility?”

Suggestions/considerations for the activity based on time and resources available:

- Give participants a couple of minutes to brainstorm, think, and take notes silently by themselves before starting the big group discussion. Encourage participants to think about the impact of IPC on residents/patients, staff, visitors, and the overall facility environment.
- Collect ideas: this can be done on a whiteboard, large piece of paper, or by having participants write on sticky notes and stick them to a wall for all to see.
- Clarify: see if any of the responses are unclear, need clarification, or require explanation.
- As time allows, you could have participants add stars, checks, or stickers to “vote” for the ones they think are the most important (this can translate into which words are listed first or bolded).

Takeaway

Turn the list of responses into a visual reminder that can be posted in the facility or revisited at trainings. There are free tools online for generating word clouds, or it could be a simple printed or handwritten list.

Example

Why IPC?



Using this Activity with Healthcare Partners

Consider using the completed world cloud as a starting point for a conversation about shared values, priorities, and opportunities to strengthen infection prevention and control efforts.

Potential discussion questions include:

- What themes emerged from our discussion?
- Which words or phrases resonate most with our team?
- How do these priorities align with our facility's mission and goals?
- What do these responses tell us about our IPC culture?
- How can we use these shared priorities to strengthen IPC practices moving forward?

Participants do not need to answer every question. Select the questions that are most relevant to the facility, audience, available time, and goals for the discussion.

Consider documenting common themes and revisiting them during future meetings, trainings, quality improvement initiatives, or IPC planning activities.