

An important time for infection prevention and control



BY LINDA GOSS, DNP, BS, APRN, ANP-BC, COHN-S, CIC, FAPIC

IT IS DIFFICULT to write this column without first addressing COVID-19 and its impact on the infection prevention and control (IPC) community.

While these past few months have certainly been challenging times, I commend infection preventionists (IPs) and those Certified in Infection Prevention and Control (CIC®) for rising to the occasion as industry leaders.

This is not the first IPC challenge we have faced, and it will not be the last. I encourage all members of the IPC community out there to trust in one another!

Thank you to everyone—IPs and CICs alike—for all your hard work in keeping the public safe.



An update on CBIC's new initiatives

My first column as the 2020 Certification Board of Infection Control and Epidemiology (CBIC) president addressed the incredible growth and progress made by the CBIC Board of Directors and CBIC staff in launching recertification by Infection Prevention Units (IPUs) and the Associate—Infection Prevention and Control (a-IPC) entry-level examination.

Over the past couple of months, CBIC has developed a number of resources to help recertifying candidates navigate the new recertification by continuing education submission process. This includes recording an instructional IPUs webinar, continuing to make updates to the IPUs Manual and FAQ page, and collaborating with CBIC's partner organizations to best communicate with CICs and answer questions about IPUs. I encourage all of you to check out these resources on our website: cbic.org.

I am pleased to announce that the a-IPC examination will officially launch sometime in summer 2020. I am looking forward to identifying new target markets for this entry-level offering, which should help pave the way for individuals interested in learning more about IPC or pursuing a career in IPC. Stay tuned for updates on the a-IPC by visiting cbic.org/CBIC/Get-Certified/Get-Started/a-IPC.htm.

What's on the horizon

In addition to recertification by IPUs and the a-IPC, CBIC is working on conducting a practice analysis of IPC professionals. Upon completion of the practice analysis, the CIC examination will be updated to accurately reflect the responsibilities and expectations of those working in IPC. The goal is to have this completed by September 2020.

Finally, although we will not have the opportunity to meet with you in person at the APIC 2020 Conference, CBIC is working hard to identify new, virtual ways of connecting with our CICs. Please visit cbic.org for updates!

With appreciation,

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2020 CBIC President

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