

## Background

- ▶ Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programs look for novel approaches to reduce *Clostridium difficile* (CD) infections and their associated morbidity and costs
- ▶ In 2016, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) developed an innovative Canine Scent Detection (CSD) program to detect environmental reservoirs of CD in healthcare settings
- ▶ Fraser Health (FH) contracted with VCH to deploy the dogs two days a week in FH acute care sites

## Results

### Between December 2016 and April 2019

- ▶ 16 acute care sites were visited in the two health authorities
- ▶ > 1200 searches have been conducted in areas/units
- ▶ > 3,000 total alerts across both health authorities

### Top 6 Alerted Locations

- Hallways
- Nursing Stations
- Clean Storage
- Staff Rooms
- Patient Rooms
- Washrooms

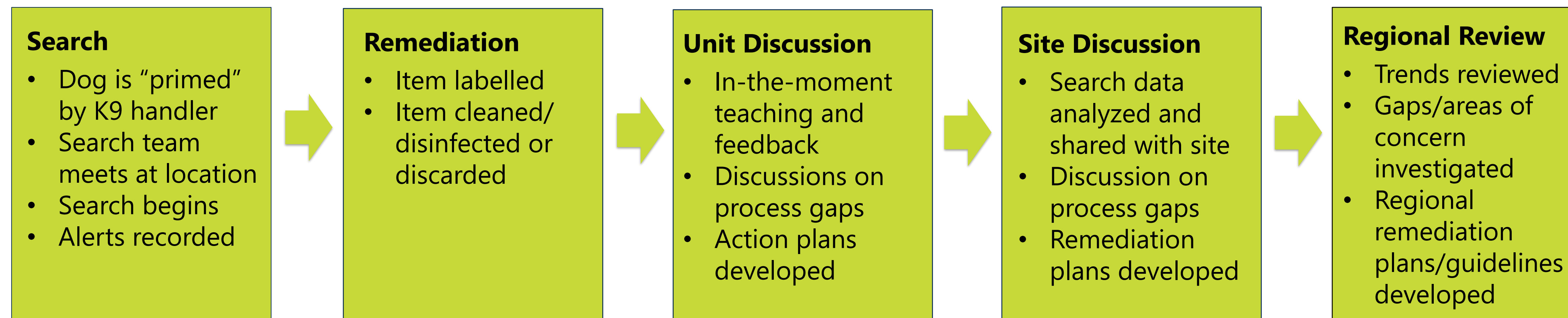
### Top 6 Alerted Objects

- PPE Cart
- Vitals Monitoring Equipment
- Wheelchairs
- Charts and Chart Rack
- Linen Cart
- Patient Beds

### Examples of improvement initiatives stemming from the CSD program include

- ▶ Daily cleaning and disinfection of patient charts
- ▶ Cleaning and disinfection of shoe racks in staff locker rooms
- ▶ A VCH/FH joint quality improvement project regarding linen and linen carts

## Program methods



Angus in Action

The K9 Teams

Dodger in Action

Dodger and Angus

## Common, weird and wacky findings



Medicine Cart

Glove Boxes

PPE Cart

Stethoscopes

Ripped Couch

Staff Locker

Charts

Paper Towel Holder

Tube Station

Birthing Ball & Breast Pump

Toilet Paper Holder

Patient Bed

Toys

Pill Crusher

## Discussion

### The alerts have

- ▶ Reinforced the importance of hand hygiene, de-cluttering and replacing damaged equipment
- ▶ Engaged front-line staff and unit management in discussions regarding infection control
- ▶ Provided opportunities for collaboration in addressing joint areas of concern across health authorities

### The CSD program has helped shift the conversation regarding infection prevention and control by

- ▶ Providing visual reminders of IPC best practices
- ▶ Highlighting the modes of CD transmission in a non-punitive way
- ▶ Engaging and empowering front-line staff, unit managers, environmental services staff, as well as other stakeholders

### The CSD program has identified

- ▶ Reservoirs of contamination, in both expected and unexpected locations
- ▶ Gaps in existing processes for cleaning and disinfection
- ▶ Issues with equipment design and location

## Lessons learned

- ▶ The success of the program is dependent on a team approach
- ▶ Stakeholders at the unit, site and regional level need to be engaged prior to the first search
- ▶ The program has been well received by staff and been the catalyst for multiple improvement initiatives
- ▶ There is a growing demand for the program, and in order to meet that demand, program capacity and resources must also grow