

# HAI/AR monthly digest

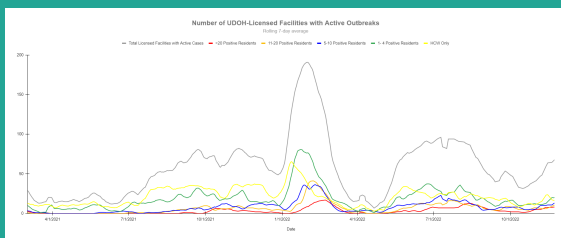
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 17 | December 2022

Did you read this month's digest?

[Yes](#) [No](#)

## Utah LTCF situational update



## New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

The CDC recently updated COVID-19 guidance recommendations. We are working to update the LTCF website to align with those changes. In the meantime, visit the [CDC's website](#) for the most up-to-date information.

New guidance documents can be found on the long-term care facilities webpage, under the [For Long-Term Care Facility Providers](#) section.

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## Updates

### HAI/AR update

#### C. auris in Utah

- The first case of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) in Utah has been identified. This individual was a transfer from Nevada and is now located in a facility in southwest Utah. There are no additional cases at this time.
- Now that *C. auris* is in Utah, preventing further spread is vital. We recommend facilities continue to screen any residents transferred from Nevada, as well as inter-Utah transfers from skilled nursing facilities.

#### Comagine Health educational opportunities

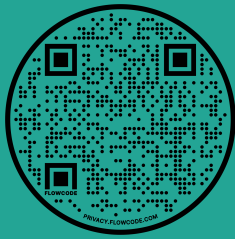
- Did you know Comagine Health has a team of dedicated infection prevention, quality improvement, and adult learning experts standing by to help you learn how to assess, strengthen, and sustain your infection prevention and control program? These resources are available to all long-term care settings in Utah: nursing facilities, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities.
- You can participate in educational workshops or schedule a [free](#) 1-1 tailored consultation by emailing Comagine Health at [infectionpreventionadvisor@comagine.org](mailto:infectionpreventionadvisor@comagine.org)
- Current workshop: [Blueprint for Success for Assisted Living Communities](#), a 60-minute webinar which provides a "blueprint" of a successful infection prevention program.

## Mental health resources

Visit the [mental health resources site](#) for information on available mental health resources in Utah.

## Questions?

For questions, visit our [long-term care facilities webpage](#) or email us at [hai@utah.gov](mailto:hai@utah.gov).



## CDC update

### Healthcare COVID-19 guidance

- The CDC's new COVID-19 guidance for healthcare facilities can be found [here](#).
  - Remember to reference [community transmission](#), rather than community levels.

### Bivalent COVID-19 boosters

The CDC recently published a study that showed a second mRNA COVID-19 booster dose during circulation of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants was 74% effective against severe COVID-19-related outcomes.

We encourage you to help residents obtain a bivalent booster. Individuals are eligible for this bivalent booster if at least 2 months have passed since they completed the primary series or received a monovalent booster.

## December spotlight:

*Send us stories or pictures to highlight the amazing work you and your facility are doing. We want to spotlight your successes. Email your HAI/AR contact or [hai@utah.gov](mailto:hai@utah.gov) to share your stories.*

## Education/information

### LTC PAC Project ECHO sessions

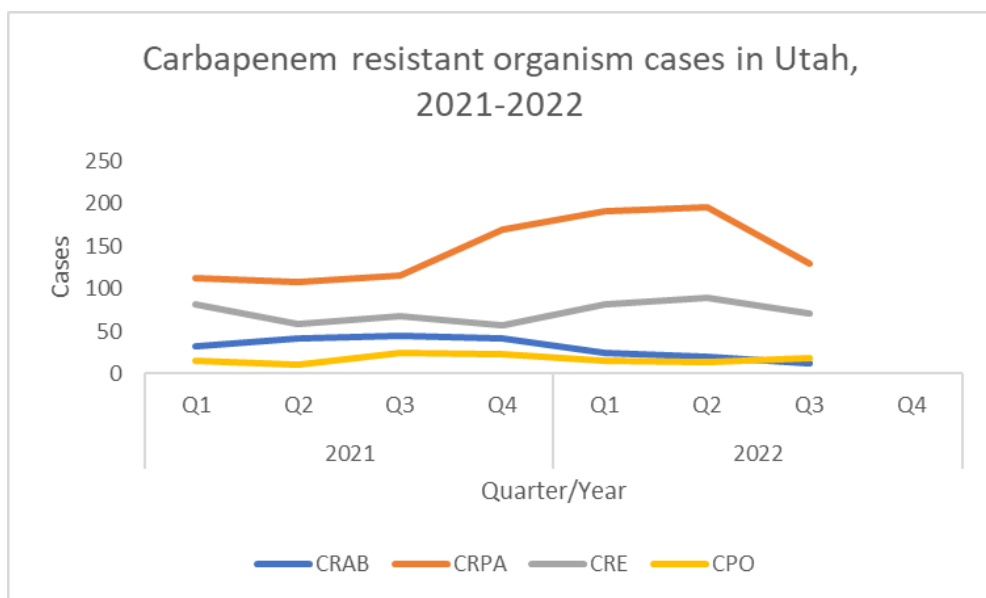
- There will not be any ECHO sessions for the rest of 2022. Comagine Health will take over in 2023. More information to come.

## Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

*As of September 30, 2022*

### Carbapenem-resistant organisms (CRO)

The CROs shown in the graph below include: carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB), carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA), carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE),\* and carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO).\*\*



\*The Enterobacterales order contains multiple bacteria species which you are not required to report to Utah DHHS, but are of interest to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) and Utah DHHS. Therefore, the CRE count may not be a comprehensive count of all CRE cases in Utah.

\*\*The CPO counts are also included in the CRAB, CRE, and CRPA counts because CPOs are also carbapenem-resistant organisms.

## Resources

### Candida auris information

- We have identified *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) in southwest Utah. The individual tested positive in Nevada prior to their transfer to Utah. There are no additional cases at this time.
- The *C. auris* outbreak in Nevada continues. The CDC recommends screening any resident who received care from a Nevada facility within 6 months. Please contact the HAI/AR team at [hai@utah.gov](mailto:hai@utah.gov) to schedule a resident screening for *C. auris*.
- If your facility is a hospital or long-term acute care hospital, use [contact precautions](#).
- If your facility is a long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or rehabilitation facility use [enhanced barrier precautions](#).
  - These precautions apply to residents colonized or infected with an MDRO and all high-risk residents.

For questions or to schedule an ICAR appointment for assisted living facilities, please email [HAI@utah.gov](mailto:HAI@utah.gov).

## Interfacility transfer form

- The Utah Department of Health and Human Services [Interfacility Transfer Form](#) should be used for patient transfer to other healthcare facilities to communicate infection control precautions to the next healthcare provider and prevent transmission of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO)s.

## Immunization program

- Staying up to date on COVID-19 immunizations is still one of the best ways to limit the spread of the virus and decrease hospitalizations and morbidity for high risk individuals. The long-term care facility immunization coordinator, [Jeni Lynne Demeny](#), is available to help you track immunizations.

## Project Firstline modules

- You can find our self-paced Project Firstline modules [here](#). They are a great resource for staff training.

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Thank you.

