

HAI/AR monthly digest

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

Issue 29 | December 2023

Did you read this month's
digest?

Yes No

HAI/AR resources

HAI/AR website

Visit our [home page](#), which links to other program sites.

Infection prevention guides

You are encouraged to use the [Infection prevention and preparedness manual](#) and the [Multidrug-resistant organisms guide](#) in your facilities.

DHHS COVID-19 healthcare guidance

All guidance documents are now located on the [HAI/AR webpage](#) and updated as needed.

CDC's COVID-19 guidance for healthcare facilities

Last updated May 8, 2023.
Updated [considerations for COVID-19 vaccines](#) are also available..

Happy holidays from the HAI/AR team!

— Organization updates —

HAI/AR updates

Requesting feedback on HAI/AR resources

We want to know if our IPC manual and MDRO guide have been useful to you this year. Please take 5 minutes to complete this short (7 questions) [survey](#). Responses are anonymous and every question is optional. We appreciate your feedback!

Updated DHHS interfacility infection control transfer form

The DHHS interfacility [infection control transfer form](#) was updated to improve patient transfer communication. We want to remind you that verbal communication may also be needed in addition to completing the form on a case-by-case basis.

Our thanks to the Utah Healthcare Infection Prevention-Governance Committee (UHIP-GC) Multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) subcommittee for updating this form! If you would like to be part of this or other UHIP-GC subcommittees, please email HAI@utah.gov.

Sign up for Utah's health alert network (HAN)

Health Alert Network (HAN) is a notification system to share information about urgent public health incidents with public health and healthcare partners. We encourage you to register and share this information with other providers.

[Register here](#) to receive future HAN messages. Contact unis@utah.gov with any questions.

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

Assisted living facilities can use this [link](#) to request an ICAR appointment. Send questions to HAI@utah.gov.

Immunization Program

Contact [Jeni Demeny](#) for assistance tracking resident immunizations.

Interfacility transfer form

This [updated form](#) should be used for patient transfer to and from other healthcare facilities. Communicating infection control precautions to the next healthcare provider helps prevent transmission of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs).

Mental health resources

Visit the [mental health resources site](#) for details of available resources.

Project Firstline resources

Our [self-paced modules](#) are great for new and experienced staff training. Our [Escape Room manual](#) is a fun way to review infection control principles. Our [training cards](#) are great for team meetings and huddles. Other Project Firstline resources are available on the [CDC's website](#).

Candida auris resources

The C. auris outbreak in Nevada continues. We have not seen any additional cases in Utah recently.

The CDC recommends screening any resident who received care from a

Antimicrobial stewardship webinar series

Due to the holidays, there will not be a webinar in December. This series will resume on January 17, 2024.

Sessions are held every third Wednesday at noon MST. Free continuing medical education (CME) credits are available. Register for future sessions [here](#).

Comagine Health updates

Comagine's NHSN open-hours

Do you have questions about the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)? Comagine hosts a NHSN open-hours to help you to find answers, get free training, and review NHSN updates. Upcoming session: Wednesday, December 27 at noon. Click [here](#) to register.

If you need guidance in the meantime, check out Comagine's tip sheets.

- [Tips for NHSN COVID-19 Reporting](#)
- [Tips for Completing Your SAMS Registration](#)

Vaccination station web series

Tune in on the second Tuesday of the month, from 11–11:30 a.m. MT to the Comagine Health vaccination station web series. These interactive sessions are designed to address questions about barriers or issues about adult vaccinations and offer opportunities for problem-solving and discussion. Register [here](#).

Collaborative “all teach, all learn” community

This interactive ECHO™ learning collaborative is taking a break in December. These sessions will resume in 2024, on the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon MT. Register [here](#).

These 1-hour, bi-weekly sessions help participants improve infection prevention programs through:

- Shared best practices
- An opportunity to troubleshoot real-life scenarios
- A chance to help each other bridge knowledge gaps

Members who actively participate in the ECHO™ series are eligible for **free** resources, including:

- Nursing continuing education credits
- Membership to the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, Inc. (APIC)

Nevada facility within 6 months. Contact the HAI/AR team at 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.

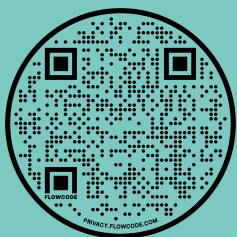
If your facility is a long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or rehabilitation facility use enhanced barrier precautions.

These precautions apply to residents colonized or infected with an MDRO and all high-risk residents.

We have also created *C. auris* knowledge checks for frontline staff and clinicians, which can provide ongoing education.

Questions?

For questions, visit our HAI webpage or email us at HAI@utah.gov.



- A subscription to APIC Infection Prevention Guide to Long-Term Care, 2nd edition

Comagine Health's customized coaching and educational opportunities

Comagine Health offers **free** 1:1 infection prevention and control coaching to help your team provide the safest care for your residents. Their expertly-designed solutions are evidence-based to meet your facility's specific needs.

Additional **free** resources are available to those who complete the coaching and consultation service:

- One year of local and national APIC memberships
- Technology solutions, such as webcams, tablets, speakers, and mobile hotspots
- PPE solutions: fit testing kits, N-95 masks, gloves, face shields, gowns
- Air purifiers and a year's supply of filter refills from Medify Air

These resources are only available for a limited time to all long-term care settings in Utah. Email the Comagine team at InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org or check out their [website](#) to take advantage of this free support.

CDC updates

VIM Carbapenem resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) via contaminated artificial tears

The outbreak of VIM CRPA continues. The CDC recommends patients and providers stop using EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears. Patients who have used these products and have signs or symptoms of an eye infection should seek medical care immediately. Read the CDC's statement [here](#).

Additional product recalls

Unrelated to the VIM CRPA outbreak, the following products have been recalled due to contamination concerns:

- [28 eyedrop products](#), due to risk of eye infections that can cause vision loss or blindness.
- [Ion and Restore brand nasal sprays](#), due to microbial contamination.
- [Saline and sterile water](#), which may not be sterile.

Please make sure these products are removed from your facilities.

Salmonella outbreak linked to cantaloupe

The [FDA](#) and [CDC](#) have announced cantaloupe recalls related to a national Salmonella outbreak. The recalled fruit was shipped to Utah before the recall was issued. Work with your facility's dietary staff to make sure affected brands are not served in your facility.

— Education and information —

Resource spotlight: ICAR module 6

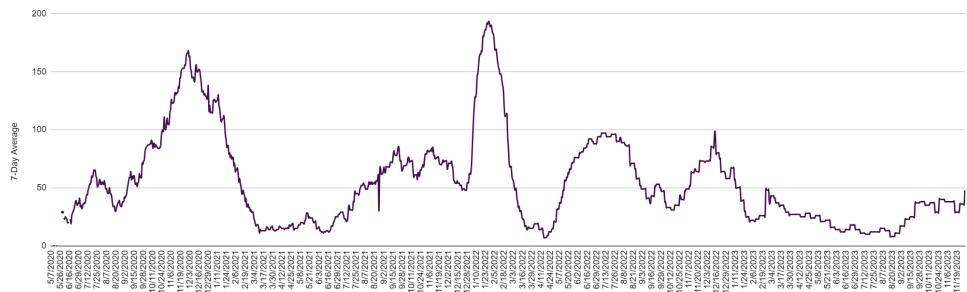
We are now more than halfway through this ICAR series. Today we will explore module 6: Injection safety. This module includes both interview and observation components, each used to assess your facility's policies and procedures for injection safety. Questions include compounding practices, sharps handling and storage, multi-dose vials, and disposal and sanitation practices.

Stay tuned as we cover the remaining ICAR modules in coming months. Click [here](#) to request an ICAR in your facility.

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

As of November 30, 2023

Number of UDOH Licensed Facilities with Active Outbreaks



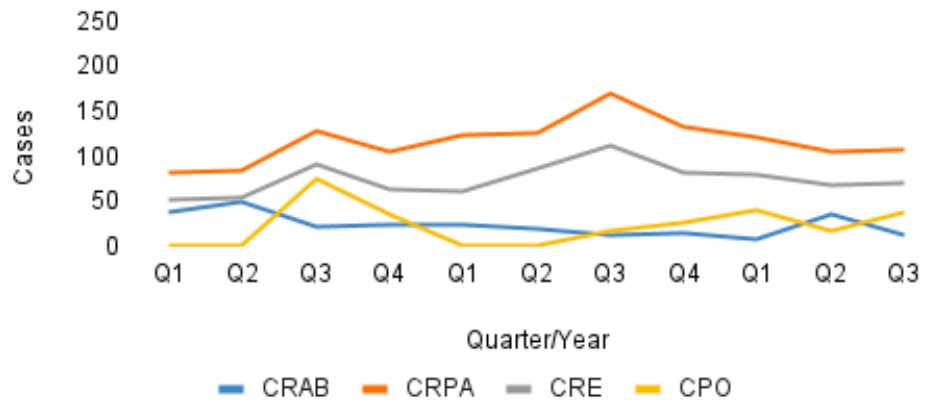
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

As of September 30, 2023

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).**

Carbapenem Resistant Organism Cases in Utah, 2021-2023



*The Enterobacteriales order contains multiple bacteria species which you are not required to report to Utah DHHS, but are of interest to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

This graph was created with data provided by the Utah Public Health Laboratory.

Did you read this month's digest?

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

To stop receiving the HAI/AR monthly digest, please reply to this email or email sarahrigby@utah.gov directly. Thank you.

