

# HAI/AR monthly digest

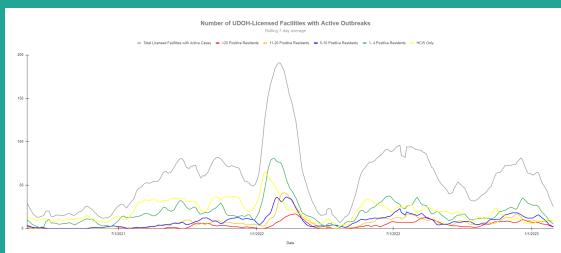
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 19 | February 2023

Did you read this month's  
digest?

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

## Utah LTCF situational update



## New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

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

Additionally, all of our COVID-19 documents are also available on our new [HAI/AR program webpage](#).

## Mental health resources

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

## Connect with us

[Instagram](#) @utah.disease.response

[Facebook](#) Utah DREAM & HAI

## Updates

### HAI/AR update

#### New Project Firstline module

Project Firstline has launched a [new self-paced module](#). The first in a two-part series, this module explores where germs live and how germs spread. This is a great resource for staff of all skill levels.

#### New HAI/AR program webpages

The HAI/AR program has four new webpages:

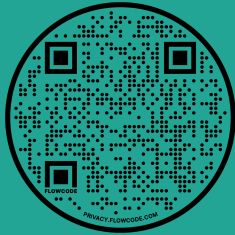
- [Healthcare-associated infections/antimicrobial resistance](#)
- [Antimicrobial stewardship](#)
- [Multidrug-resistant organisms \(MDRO\)](#)
- [Legionellosis and water safety in healthcare settings](#)

Each webpage provides information and resources to assist you in your daily work. All of our COVID-19 documents have also been uploaded to the main HAI/AR page. We encourage you to visit and utilize these webpages.

#### New infection prevention and preparedness manual

## Questions?

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



The HAI/AR team created a new resource for long-term care facilities, the [Infection prevention and preparedness manual](#). This is a comprehensive resource to assist long-term care settings to prepare for and prevent outbreaks of all kinds in their communities.

## Comagine's February events

Find Your fit—live, virtual N95 fit testing and respiratory protection program education. Register [here](#).

- Feb. 15, 2023: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (MT)
- Feb. 23, 2023: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (MT)

Input requested from assisted living leaders.

- Comagine Health needs input from industry leaders to help determine the next stage of development of infection prevention educational opportunities, tools, and resources for Utah's assisted living communities.
- Your individual responses and identity will be kept confidential. Comagine Health will use your input anonymously.
- To schedule a time to share your ideas, please email [infectionpreventionadvisor@comagine.org](mailto:infectionpreventionadvisor@comagine.org)

## C. auris in Utah

- In December, a case of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) was identified in Utah. There are no additional cases at this time.

- There are still significant *C. auris* outbreaks in neighboring states. Screening is a vital tool to prevent further transmission. We strongly recommend using the [interfacility transfer form](#), as well as conducting screenings on all transfer patients from Nevada.

## 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.

## February 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

### Comagine Health's customized coaching and educational opportunities

- Comagine Health has a team of dedicated infection prevention, quality improvement experts standing by to help you learn how to assess, strengthen, and sustain your infection prevention and control program.
- These resources are only available for a limited time to all long-term care settings in Utah: nursing facilities, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities.

- Email the Comagine team at [InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org](mailto:InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org) or check out their [website](#) to take advantage of this free support.

## LTC PAC Project ECHO sessions

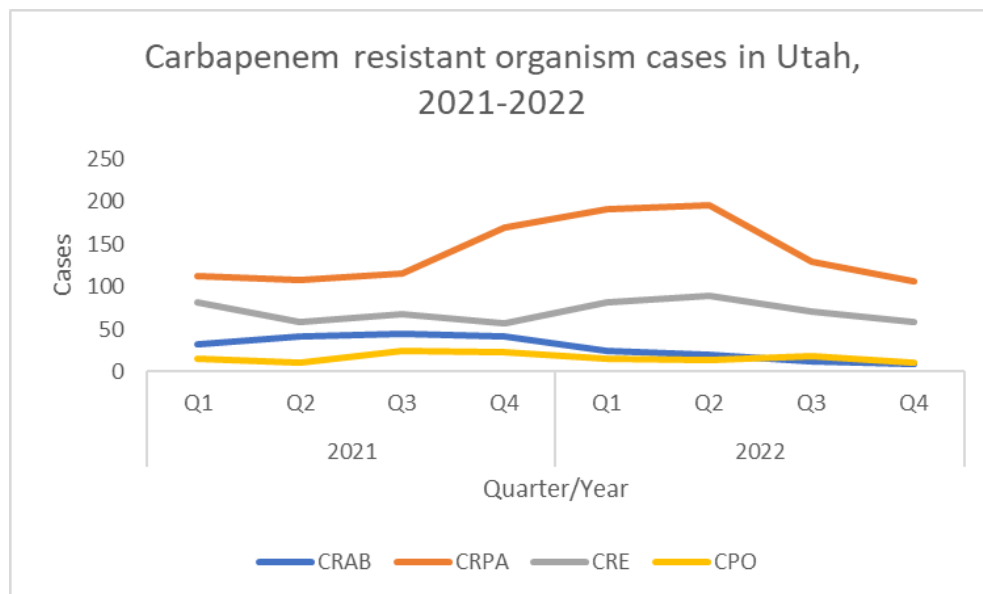
- ECHO sessions will resume later in 2023. We will provide information when it is available.

## Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

*As of December 31st, 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

- 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.

## Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

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.

## Connect with us

[Instagram](#) @utah.disease.response

[Facebook](#) Utah DREAM & HAI

**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](mailto:sarahrigby@utah.gov) directly.  
Thank you.*

