

HAI/AR monthly digest

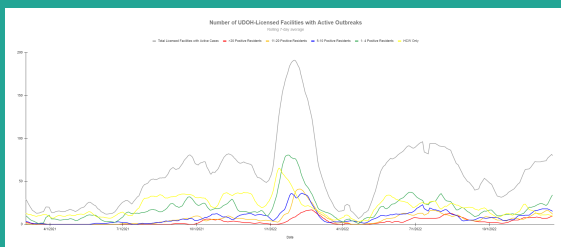
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 18 | January 2023

Did you read this month's digest?

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

Utah LTCF situational update



New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

We are working to update the LTCF website to align with the CDC's recent 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.

Mental health resources

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

The HAI/AR team wishes you a happy new year!

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Updates

HAI/AR update

New HAI/AR program webpages

The HAI/AR program has four new webpages covering non-COVID topics, including:

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

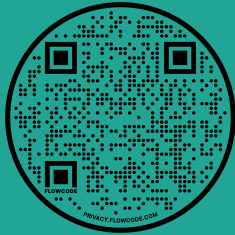
Each webpage provides information and resources to assist you in your daily work. We encourage you to visit and utilize these webpages.

Distribution of expiring COVID-19 at-home test kits

- DHHS has a supply of at-home test kits that are expiring this month. We cannot use them in time, so we want to make them available to you.
- You do not need a CLIA waiver to receive these tests since test results are not reported to public health. More details are on the attached flyer.
- You can request tests using this [link](#) or email carancibia@utah.gov.

Questions?

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



C. auris in Utah

- Last month, 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.

Comagine Health's free customized coaching educational opportunities

- You may know that Comagine Health is the QIN-QIO supporting long term care facilities throughout the state of Utah. But did you know that 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 or check out their [website](#) to take advantage of this free support.

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.

January 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 to share your stories.

Education/information

LTC PAC Project ECHO sessions

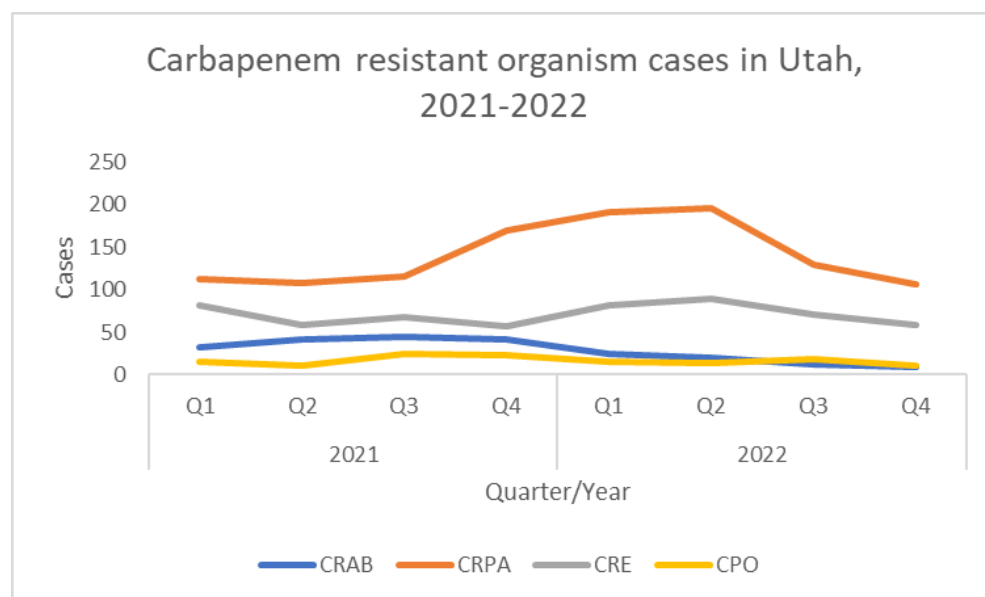
- ECHO sessions will resume later in 2023. Check back next month for more information.

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 Enterobacteriales (CRE),* and carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO).**



*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 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 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.

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.*

