

# HAI/AR Monthly Digest

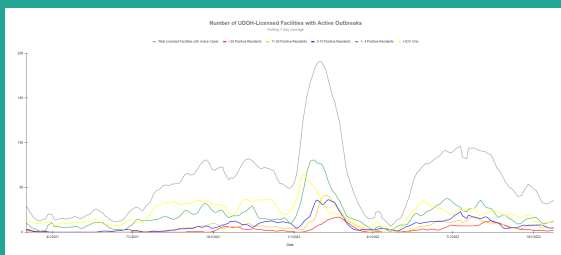
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 16 | November 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

#### November is C. diff awareness month

- Clostridioides difficile (C. diff) is a germ that causes severe diarrhea, which can be life-threatening. It can affect anyone and is usually associated with recent antibiotic use. CDC estimates C. diff causes almost half a million infections in the United States each year and contributes to about 29,300 deaths.
- Visit the CDC's [C. diff website](#) for more information and educational resources.

#### Comagine Health's infection prevention solutions

- Comagine Health highlights a "Season of Safety" with 2 new educational events. These will take place throughout October and November.
  - Please see the attached document for event details and registration links.
- Visit their [website](#) to learn more or email Comagine Health at [InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org](mailto:InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org)

### CDC update

#### Changes to COVID-19 guidance

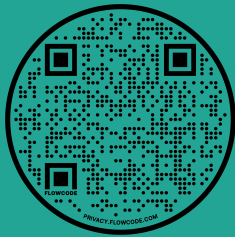
- New COVID-19 guidance has been released by the CDC for healthcare facilities, which can be found [here](#). Notable changes include:

## 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).



- Long-term care specific guidelines have been incorporated into overall healthcare guidance. Previous guidance for nursing homes has been archived.
- Discontinuation of employee screening testing, regardless of vaccination status. Symptomatic and post exposure testing remain in place.
- Discontinuation of quarantine and work restrictions for asymptomatic individuals.
- Updates to source control measures, including adjusted mask use and other recommendations based on current [community transmission](#).
- Specific recommendations by setting (such as nursing homes or assisted living). Expect more information from HAI related to these recommendations.

## COVID-19 vaccine boosters

The new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is now available. A recent study published by CDC revealed a second mRNA COVID-19 booster dose during circulation of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants was 74% effective against severe COVID-19-related outcomes.

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. We encourage you to consider including the bivalent vaccine with your annual flu vaccine clinic.

## November 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

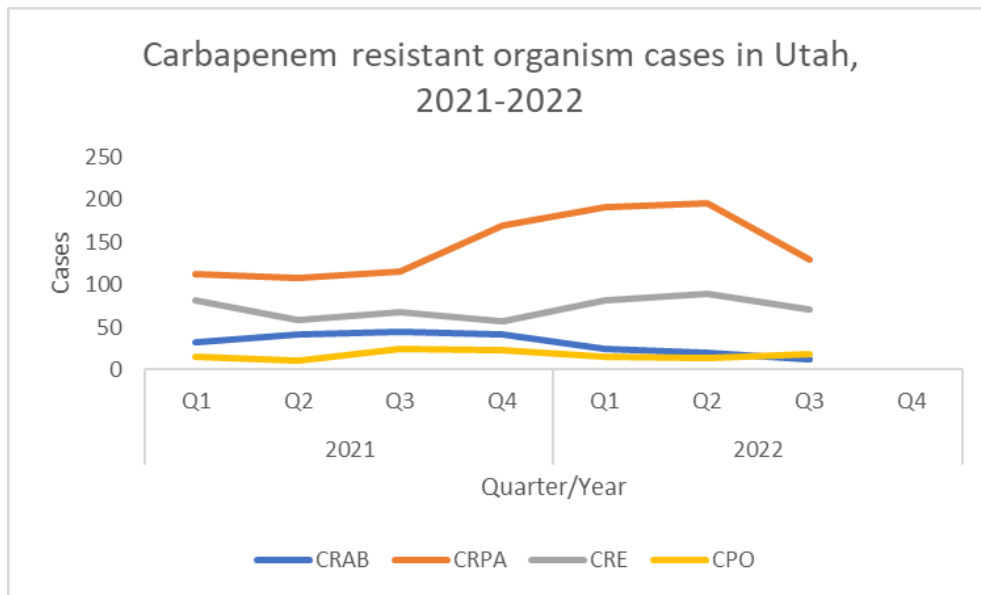
- There will not be any ECHO sessions for the rest of 2022. Comagine Health will be taking over in 2023. More information to come.

## 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 are not required to be reported 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 *Candida auris* (*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 Utah Public Health Lab (UPHL) at [arlnutah@utah.gov](mailto:arlnutah@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 training of staff.

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Thank you.