

HAI/AR monthly digest

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

Issue 27 | October 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. Our documents are **no longer available** on the [long-term care facilities webpage](#).

CDC COVID-19 healthcare guidance

Last updated May 8, 2023. Considerations for COVID-19 vaccines can be found [here](#).

Updates

HAI/AR updates

New Project Firstline micro-learn

Project Firstline has released the new [Cough and congestion](#) micro-learn to help you prepare for the upcoming respiratory virus season.

[Micro-learns](#) are short and adaptable guided discussions that link infection control concepts to immediate, practical value to help healthcare workers recognize infection risks and take action to stop the spread of germs. Incorporate these quick, in-person resources into your next team meeting or huddle.

Seasonal vaccinations

Seasonal vaccines can be a useful tool to protect residents and staff. Vaccines that should be considered for this upcoming respiratory season include:

- The recently approved RSV vaccine, which is recommended for adults 60 years and older. Read more about the RSV vaccine [here](#).
- The newly approved updated COVID-19 shot, which is recommended for all adults. Read more about the COVID-19 vaccine [here](#).
- An annual influenza vaccine.

You can contact the DHHS Immunization Program representative, [Jeni Demeny](#), with questions about these vaccines.

DHHS mobile testing team (MTT) discontinued

As of September 1, 2023, the mobile testing team is no longer available to support facilities with COVID-19 testing. Work with your COVID-19 test supplier to get testing kits to test residents and staff who have signs or symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19 cases per [CDC guidance](#) and [CMS QSO-20-38](#).

Antimicrobial stewardship webinar series

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

Use this [link](#) to request an ICAR appointment for assisted living facilities. For questions, email HA1@utah.gov.

Immunization Program

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

Interfacility transfer form

This [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 modules

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

Candida auris resources

The C. auris outbreak in Nevada continues. The CDC recommends screening any resident who received care from a Nevada facility within 6

Sessions are held every third Wednesday at 12 p.m. MST. Free continuing medical education (CME) credits are available.

- Register for the webinar [here](#). The webinar's Zoom passcode is 123456
- Next session: October 18, 2023

Candida auris (C. auris) in Utah

- No in-state transmission of Candida auris has been identified to date.
- At this time, 5 cases of C. auris have been diagnosed in people who have received care in Utah but are from other states.
- Significant C. auris outbreaks are occurring in neighboring states. We recommend you:
 - Screen admissions from outside states (including Nevada) with known C. auris outbreaks.
 - We strongly recommend using the [interfacility transfer form](#) to communicate MDRO status when you transfer residents to other healthcare settings.
- Additional C. auris information is available in the resources section of this digest.

Comagine Health updates

Comagine's NHSN open-hours

Do you have questions about the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)? Join Comagine's NHSN open-hours on Wednesday, October 25 at 12 p.m. to find answers, get free training, and review NHSN updates. 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](#).

Environmental cleaning workshop for long-term care staff

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](#).

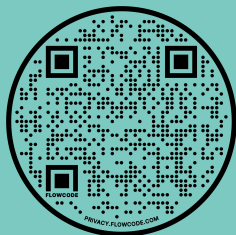
If your facility is a long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or rehabilitation facility use [enhanced barrier precautions](#).

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

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.



You only have a few days left to register for Comagine Health's interactive, one-day environmental cleaning and disinfection workshop. This in-person workshop is **free** to any LTCF staff but registration closes on Thursday, October 5.

Choose your location to register.

Thursday, October 12, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, St. George. Register [here](#).

Friday, October 27, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn, near the Salt Lake City airport. Register [here](#).

**Travel reimbursement is available for rural areas (limited availability; first-come, first-served basis. Limited to 2 staff per rural LTCF that is more than 100 miles from the nearest workshop location).

Collaborative “all teach, all learn” community for long-term care facilities

This interactive ECHO™ learning collaborative is held the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. 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)
- 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 expert-designed solutions are evidence-based to meet your staff'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 stop using EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears pending additional information and guidance from CDC and FDA. Patients who have used EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears and who have signs or symptoms of an eye infection should seek medical care immediately.

Read the CDC's statement [here](#).

Education/information

Resource spotlight: ICAR assessment module 4

Previously, we highlighted the demographics form and first 3 modules of the ICAR: Training audits, Hand hygiene, and Transmission-based precautions. Module 4 reviews and explores environmental services (EVS) policies and procedures in your facility.

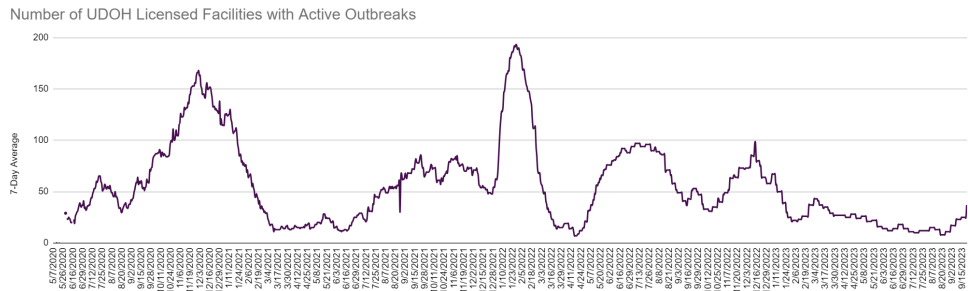
The interview portion of this module should include both facility administration and EVS leadership. The interview examines cleaning and disinfection policies for a variety of activities. The observation worksheet has the facilitator evaluate product storage and use, best practices for cleaning cart use, EVS use of PPE, and practices for reusable supplies. Facilitators are encouraged to observe at least 3 different cleaning instances to determine if policy and procedures are being followed.

Stay tuned as we cover more parts of the ICAR in coming months.

Click [here](#) to request an ICAR in your facility.

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

As of Sept 30, 2023



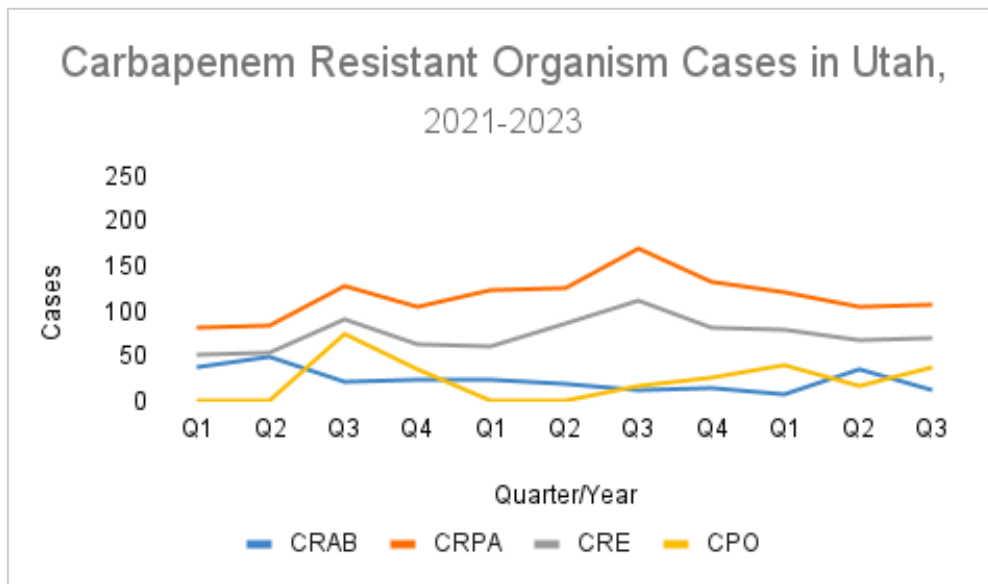
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

As of July 31, 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).**



*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 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.*

