

HAI/AR monthly digest

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

Issue 26 | September 2023

Did you read this month's
digest?

Yes No

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

To improve readability of this graph, it has been relocated to the education/information section at the end of this digest.

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.

Updates

HAI/AR updates

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](#).

RSV vaccination for adults

The RSV vaccine was recently approved. The CDC recommends adults 60 years and older receive a single dose of RSV vaccine, based on discussions between the patient and health care provider. The RSV vaccine can be given at the same time as other vaccines. Read more about the RSV vaccine [here](#). You can also contact the DHHS Immunization Program liaison [Jenny Demeny](#) with questions.

Antimicrobial stewardship webinar series

The antimicrobial stewardship webinar successfully launched on August 23. Thank you to everyone who attended the first session. It's not too late to join! 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: September 20, 2023. Symptom Free (Pee), Let It Be. Dustin Waters, Pharm D, BCPS, Advanced Clinical Pharmacist, Intermountain Healthcare

Utah APIC education conference 2023

Final call to register for the Utah APIC education conference! Attendance is open to all people who have infection prevention

Our documents are **no longer available** on the long-term care facilities webpage, under the [For Long-Term Care Facility Providers](#) section.

CDC COVID-19 healthcare guidance

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

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

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

These [modules](#) are great for new and continuing staff training.

and control responsibilities in healthcare facilities. The conference will be held on Wednesday, September 20, at Thanksgiving Point Ashton Gardens. Register and purchase tickets [here](#).

Confirmed topics include:

- Infection control regulatory standards and guidelines
- Role of nasal decolonization in HAI reduction
- Resilience
- Interventional epidemiology and research
- Bio-schematics and outbreak investigations
- Computer tools for infection preventionists

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

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 regarding adult vaccinations and offer opportunities for problem-solving and discussion. Register [here](#).

Environmental cleaning workshop for long-term care staff

Join Comagine Health for an interactive, one-day workshop where you and your interdisciplinary team will learn to improve your cleaning and disinfection program for infection control, a cornerstone of long-term care resident safety. This in-person workshop is **free** to any LTCF staff.

Choose your location to register.

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 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](#).

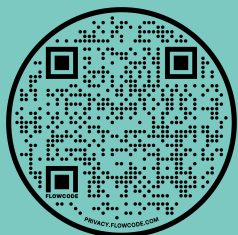
If your facility is a [long-term care facility](#), [skilled nursing facility](#), or [rehabilitation facility](#) use [enhanced barrier precautions](#).

- 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.



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 for Utah’s long-term care staff. Sessions are held the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. MT. Register [here](#).

Upcoming dates and topics:

Wednesday, September 6: Enhanced barrier precautions

Wednesday, September 20: Giving it your best shot, safely

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.

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 3

The ICAR modules cover a variety of infection prevention practices and are a guide to discuss policies and practices of your facility. Some modules have corresponding observation components.

The third assessment module of the ICAR evaluates the use and understanding of transmission based precautions in your facility. It explores which precautions are used, use of signs, and who can activate and discontinue precautions. Additionally, it includes knowledge checks to review understanding of when to discontinue precautions for common germs. The ICAR team will also conduct observations of PPE use, sign use, and patient placement related to each type of precautions.

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

Comagine Health's customized coaching and educational opportunities

Comagine Health's **free** 1:1 infection prevention and control coaching helps your team provide the safest care for your residents through:

- Expert-designed solutions for your staff's specific needs
- Coaching for new infection prevention specialists and for busy staff who "do it all"
- Evidence-based tools to improve your culture of safety

Completion of the coaching and consultation services provides access to additional **free** resources:

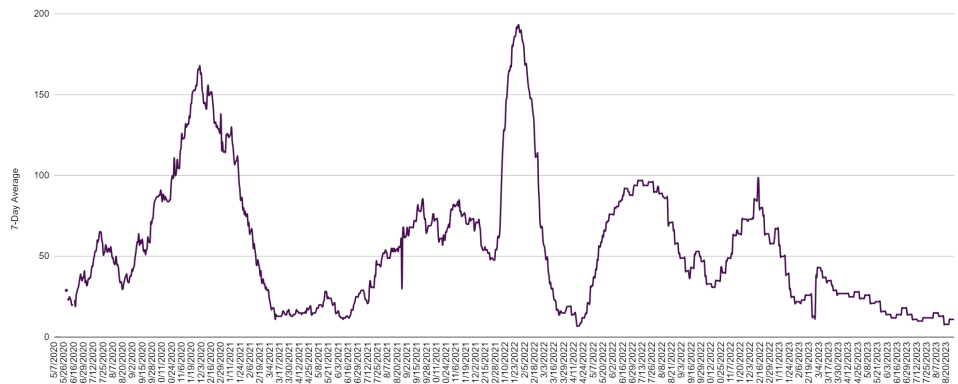
- One year of local and national APIC memberships
- Technology solutions, such as webcams, tablets, speakers, and mobile hotspots
- PPE solutions: fit testing kits, N-95 masks, gloves, face shields, gowns
- Air purifiers and a year's supply of filter refills from Medify Air

These resources are only available for a limited time to all long-term care settings in Utah: 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.

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

As of Aug 31, 2023

Number of UDOH Licensed Facilities with Active Outbreaks



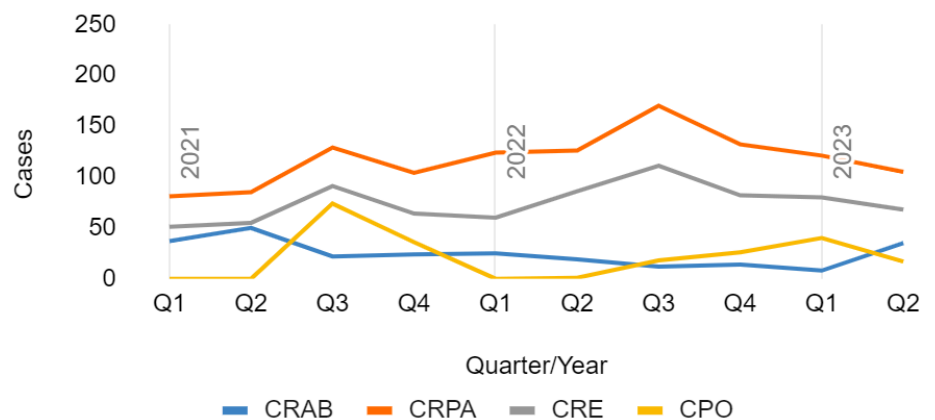
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

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).**

Carbapenem Resistant Organism Cases in Utah, 2021-2023



*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 Lab.

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.*

