

# HAI/AR Monthly Digest

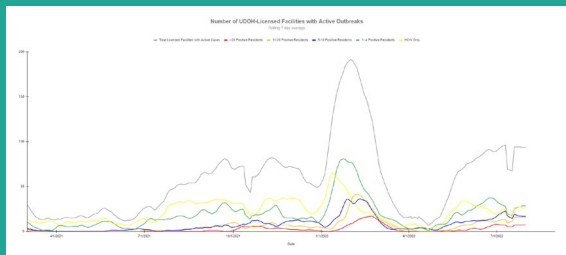
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 13 | August 2022

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

## Utah LTCF situational update



## New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

New

- COVID-19 outbreak checklist

Updated

- COVID-19 visitor screening tool

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.

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## Updates

[HAI/AR update](#)

## Project Firstline module launch



- The HAI/AR team is excited to announce the launch of our free, self-paced [Project Firstline infection prevention training modules](#) for all frontline healthcare staff.

## 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.

## Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

- ICARs are a great resource to help facilities protect their residents and staff. This half-day collaborative assessment

## Questions?

For questions, visit our [Long-Term Care Facilities webpage](#) or email us at [hai@utah.gov](mailto:hai@utah.gov).



helps facilities review their infection prevention and control practices.

- For questions or to schedule an ICAR appointment for assisted living facilities, please email [HA1@utah.gov](mailto:HA1@utah.gov).
- We have partnered with Comagine Health to make ICARs and education resources available to long-term care facilities. We invite you to attend Comagine's August event: **IPC program assessment workshops** (for small groups)
  - Sessions are available by facility type between August 8–25, 2022
  - Use the following links to register for a session:
    - [Assisted living](#)
    - [Skilled nursing](#)
    - [Intermediate care](#)
  - This event is part 2 of their Prepare, Prevent, Protect series. To view part 1, visit Comagine's [website](#).

## CDC update

- The CDC updated their [COVID-19 vaccine and booster recommendations](#) for people 50 years of age and older to include a second booster dose. People who are 50 years of age and older must receive a second COVID-19 booster dose when eligible to remain **up to date** with COVID-19 vaccination. For more information review [CDC's COVID-19 vaccine schedule at a glance](#).
- [CDC updated Enhanced Barrier Precaution](#) recommendations on July 12, 2022. These precautions are now recommended for all nursing home residents who meet the following criteria:
  - Infection or colonization with a MDRO when contact precautions do not apply
  - Wounds and/or indwelling medical devices (e.g., central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator) regardless of MDRO colonization status

## August spotlight:

The William E. Christoffersen Salt Lake Veterans Home recently celebrated a milestone! All of its 77 residents achieved up-to-date COVID vaccination status! Lacey Watson, the director of nursing, attributes this success to consistent messaging about the value of remaining up to date. Their care team, including the physician, reached out to residents and their families directly to encourage booster shots and to address any concerns. Local hospitals also

played a positive role in offering boosters prior to transfer to the facility.

*Please send us stories or pictures to highlight the amazing work you and your facility accomplished during the pandemic. We want to spotlight your successes. Email your HAI/AR contact or [haj@utah.gov](mailto:haj@utah.gov) to share your stories.*

## Education/resources

### Mental health resources

- The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) created 5-minute [emotional health and resilience learning modules](#) for frontline staff.

### LTC PAC Project ECHO sessions

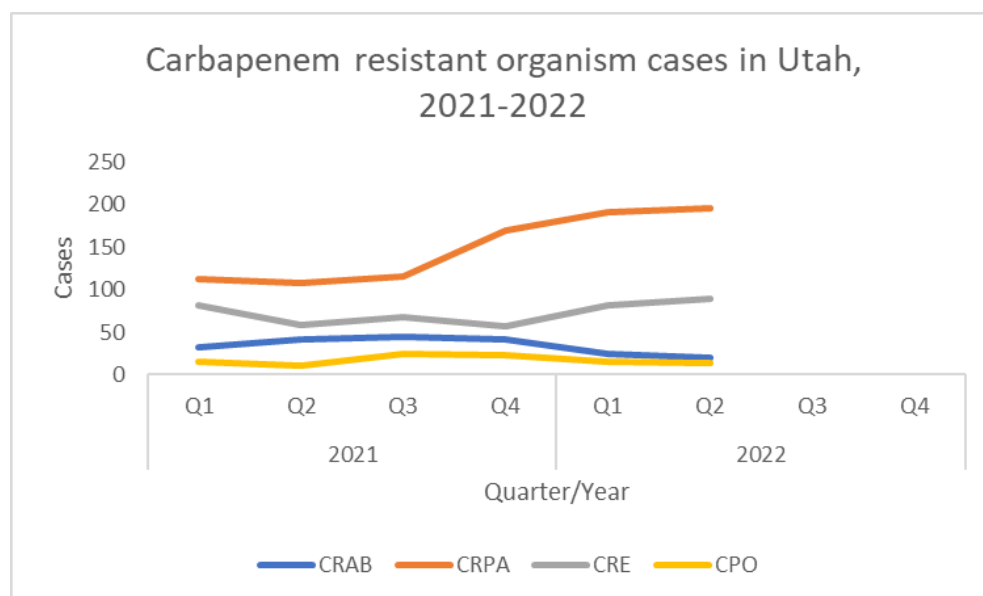
- There will be no Project ECHO session this month. Stay tuned for information on future sessions.

## Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

*As of June 30, 2022*

### Carbapenem-resistant organisms

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 that 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.

## Candida auris outbreak in Nevada

Nevada is currently experiencing a *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) outbreak in multiple healthcare facilities. It appears this outbreak started August 1, 2021 and still continues. *C. auris* is an emerging multidrug-resistant fungus that is hard to detect and can be associated with high mortality rates. The CDC recommends screening for any resident who received care from a Nevada facility within the past 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 a case of *C. auris* is found at your facility follow these precaution recommendations:

- If your facility is a **hospital** or **long term acute care hospital**
  - Contact precautions
    - Perform hand hygiene before donning a gown and gloves.
    - Don gown and gloves before entering the affected patient/resident's room.
    - Remove the gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene before exiting the patient/resident's room.
- If your facility is a **long term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or rehabilitation facility:**
  - [Enhanced barrier precautions](#)
    - Staff should wear gown and gloves before they perform any high-contact resident care activities when the potential for exposure to body fluids or secretions exists, such as:
      - Bathing or providing hygiene to residents
      - Resident transfers
      - Assisting residents with toileting
      - Changing residents' briefs
      - Changing a wound dressing
      - Manipulating patient devices, (e.g., urinary catheter)
    - These precautions apply to residents colonized or infected with an MDRO and all 'high-risk' residents.

- High-risk residents include those with:
  - Central venous catheters
  - Urinary catheters
  - Feeding tubes
  - Drains
  - Ventilators
  - Tracheostomy
  - Wounds

## 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.

## Community transmission rates and PPE use

- Nursing facilities and long term care (LTC) communities should continue to monitor [community transmission rates](#) in their county and implement the appropriate [LTC infection prevention and control recommendations based on the transmission rate and vaccination status](#).

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Thank you.*

