

HAI/AR monthly digest

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

Issue 30 | January 2024

Did you read this month's
digest?

Yes No

HAI/AR resources

HAI/AR website

Visit our [homepage](#), 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.

CDC's COVID-19 guidance for healthcare facilities

Last updated May 8, 2023.
Updated [considerations for COVID-19 vaccines](#) are also available.

— Organization updates —

HAI/AR updates

Feedback on HAI/AR resources

We'd like to know if our IPC manual and MDRO guide were useful for you in 2023. Take 5 minutes to complete this short (7 questions) [survey](#). Responses are anonymous and every question is optional. We appreciate your feedback!

First local *Candida auris* case

We identified the first case of *C. auris* in Utah not linked to Nevada in December. It is more important than ever to conduct admission screening for new residents to prevent further spread of *C. auris* in Utah.

We recommend you screen resident transfers who come from any long-term acute-care hospital (LTACH) or ventilator-equipped skilled nursing facility (vSNF) in Utah County. Continue to screen any resident transfers from Nevada.

Antimicrobial stewardship webinar series

Join us as the antimicrobial stewardship webinar resumes for the new year! Sessions are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 12 p.m. MST. Free continuing medical education (CME) credits are available.

Details for the next session:

Date: January 17, 2024

Speaker: Dr. Fatima Bernard, University of Utah Health

Topic: The role of medical directors in Antibiotic Stewardship in PALTC

Register for the webinar [here](#). The Zoom password is 123456.

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

Assisted living facilities can use this [link](#) to request an ICAR appointment. Send questions to HAI@utah.gov.

Immunization Program

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

Interfacility transfer form

This [updated 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 resources

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

Candida auris resources

The C. auris outbreak in Nevada continues. We have also recently seen the first case of C. auris transmission in Utah.

Comagine Health updates

Vaccination station web series

Tune in to the Comagine Health vaccination station web series on the second Tuesday of the month, 11–11:30 a.m. MT. These interactive sessions are designed to address questions, barriers, or issues about adult vaccinations and offer opportunities for problem-solving and discussion. Register [here](#).

Collaborative “all teach, all learn” community

This interactive ECHO™ learning collaborative resumes on January 17, 2024. Sessions are held the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to noon MT. Register [here](#).

Collaborative members who actively participate in this 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

Last chance to participate in customized coaching and consultation

Comagine Health offers **free** 1:1 infection prevention and control coaching to help your team provide the safest care for your residents. Their expertly-designed solutions are evidence-based to meet your facility'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.

The CDC recommends screening any resident who received care from a Nevada facility within 6 months. We also recommend screening residents who are transferred from vSNF or LTACH facilities in Utah County. Contact the HAI/AR team at HAI@utah.gov to schedule a resident screening for *C. auris*.

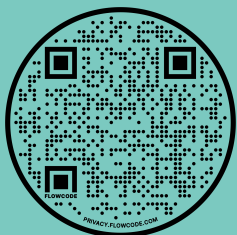
Recommended precautions to prevent *C. auris* spread:

- Use [contact precautions](#) if your facility is a [hospital](#) or [long-term acute care hospital](#).
- Use [enhanced barrier precautions](#) if your facility is a [long-term care facility](#), [skilled nursing facility](#), or [rehabilitation facility](#).
- 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.



CDC updates

VIM Carbapenem resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) via contaminated artificial tears

The outbreak of VIM CRPA continues. The CDC recommends patients and providers stop using EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears and Delsam Pharma's Artificial Ointment. Patients who have used these products and have signs or symptoms of an eye infection should seek medical care immediately. Read the CDC's statement [here](#).

Additional product recalls

Unrelated to the VIM CRPA outbreak, the following products have been recalled due to contamination concerns:

- [28 eyedrop products](#) due to risk of eye infections that can cause vision loss or blindness.
- [Ion and Restore brand nasal sprays](#) due to microbial contamination.
- [Saline and sterile water](#) which may not be sterile.

Make sure these products are removed from your facilities.

Salmonella outbreaks

Recalls have been announced for [cantaloupe](#) and [Quaker granola products](#), each related to Salmonella outbreaks. Work with your facility's dietary staff to make sure affected foods are not served in your facility.

— Education and information —

Resource spotlight: ICAR module 6

The next module of the ICAR tool assesses point of care (POC) blood testing and equipment in your facility. This module particularly focuses on the risk of spreading bloodborne viruses through shared testing devices

This module uses both interview and observation portions to assess:

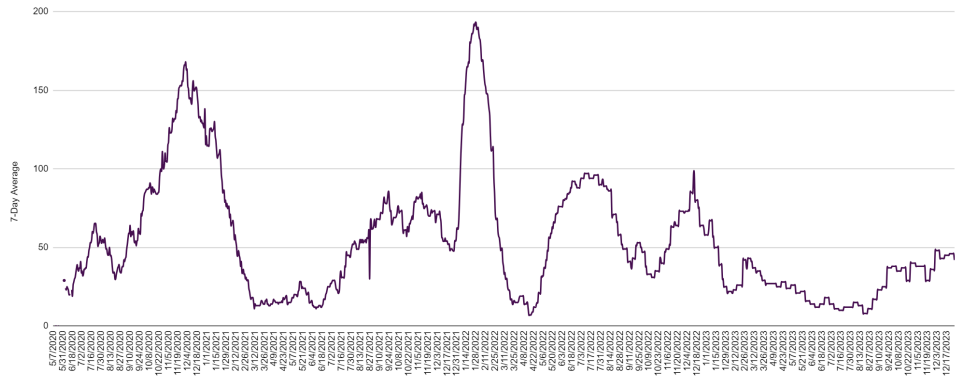
- cleaning, disinfection, and storage of shared testing supplies
- single-use testing equipment, including use and safety considerations
- healthcare staff hand hygiene and PPE use

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

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

As of December 31, 2023

Number of UDOH Licensed Facilities with Active Outbreaks



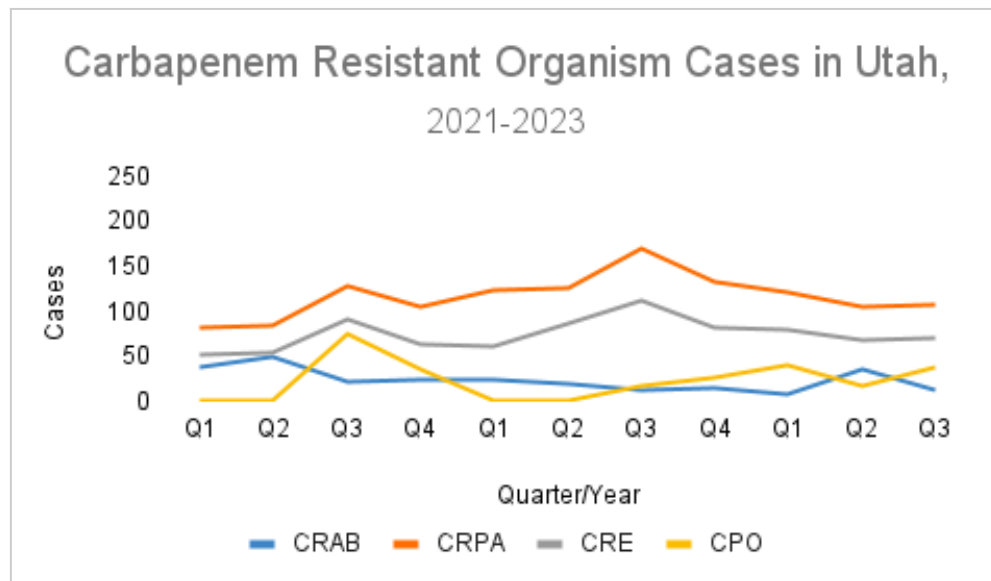
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

As of September 30, 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.*

