

HAI/AR monthly digest

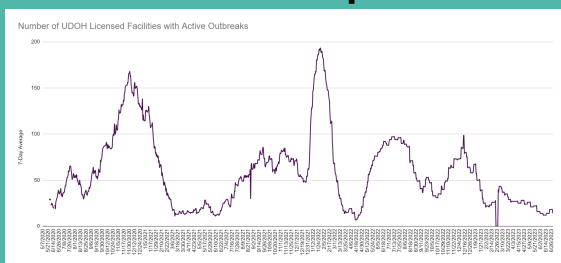
Utah Department of Health and Human Services
Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 24 | July 2023

Did you read this month's
digest?

Yes No

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update



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

Antimicrobial stewardship webinar series

- Want to learn more about antimicrobial stewardship? The HAI/AR program is working with Project ECHO to continue the conversation about antimicrobial stewardship.
- This webinar series will occur at 12 p.m. MST, every third Wednesday beginning August 16.
- Click [here](#) if you would like to participate, either as a viewer or a presenter. Free continuing medical education (CME) credits are available for those who participate.

Save-the-date for the 2023 Utah APIC education conference

The Utah APIC education conference will be held on Wednesday, September 20, at the Thanksgiving Point Garden Center. Cost of entry is \$35 and is open to all persons with infection prevention and control responsibilities in healthcare facilities.

Confirmed topics include:

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

New infection control micro-learns by Project Firstline

[Project Firstline micro-learns](#) are a series of guided infection control discussions that provide brief, on-the-job educational opportunities. Use these for team meetings, pre-shift huddles, or other group interactions. Each micro-learn includes a discussion guide for facilitations and a job aid to share with staff. Check out the micro-learns about [blood](#) and [rashes](#).

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.

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

Use this [link](#) to schedule 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.

Comagine Health's new collaborative "all teach, all learn" community for long-term care facilities

The Comagine Health Utah Infection Prevention Solutions team launched an interactive ECHO™ learning collaborative for staff from Utah's long-term care facilities.

These 1 hour, bi-weekly sessions help participants improve infection prevention programs by:

- sharing best practices
- troubleshooting real-life scenarios
- helping each other bridge knowledge gaps

Upcoming dates and topics:

Wednesday, July 5—Keeping a watchful eye

Wednesday, July 19—Using QAPI to your advantage

Register [here](#).

New ICAR request process

The HAI/AR team has launched a new process to request ICARs. Fill out this [form](#) to start the request process. This form will be available in the resources section (see left) going forward.

Check out our resource spotlight below for more information about the ICAR experience.

C. auris in Utah

- No in-state transmission of *Candida auris* has been identified to date. Fewer than 5 cases of *C. auris* have been diagnosed in people who are receiving 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 transferring residents to other healthcare settings.
- Additional *C. auris* information is available in the resources section of this digest.

CDC updates

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.

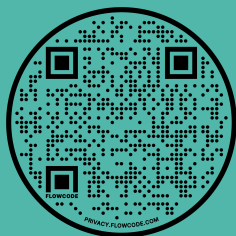
If your facility is a long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or rehabilitation facility use enhanced barrier precautions.

- 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.



Changes to COVID-19 guidance and vaccine considerations

Following the end of the public health emergency, CDC announced changes to the COVID-19 guidance. Significant changes include:

- sunsetting the CDC community transmission tracker
- updated recommendations for universal source control and admission testing in nursing homes
- a guide to assist facilities with how and when to implement broader use of source control, including examples of potential metrics

View the updated COVID-19 guidance [here](#).

Additionally, the considerations for COVID-19 vaccines have also been updated. More information can be found [here](#).

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

The CDC updated their [statement](#) on EzriCare and Delsam Pharma artificial tears contaminated by VIM CRPA. The CDC recommends patients stop using EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears pending additional information and guidance from CDC and FDA.

If patients were advised to use EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears by their healthcare provider, they should follow up with their healthcare provider for recommendations about alternative treatment options. 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.

Education/information

Resource spotlight: ICAR assessment module 1

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 first assessment module of the ICAR focuses on areas where training, auditing, and feedback are performed by the facility. This includes the frequency of training, keeping training records, and practices to conduct audits and share feedback.

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

Comagine Health's customized coaching and educational opportunities

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

- expert-designed solutions for your home and your staff's specific needs
- coaching for busy staff who "do it all" as well as new infection prevention specialists
- 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.

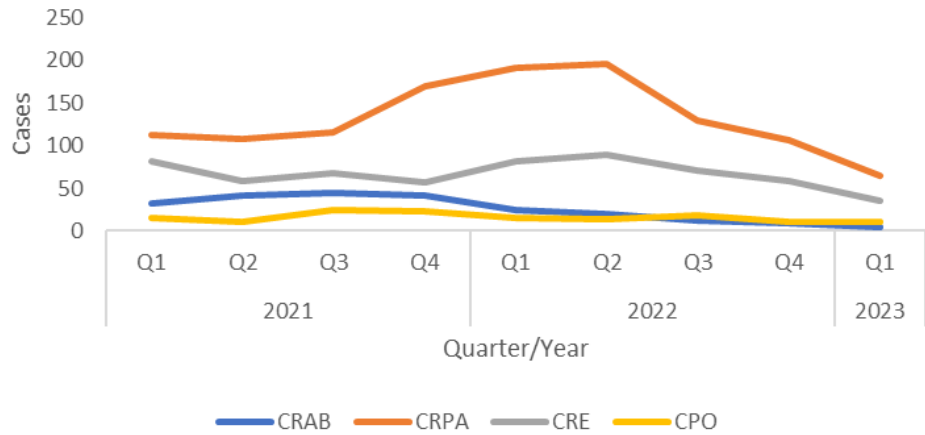
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

As of March 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 Enterobacteriales order contains multiple bacteria species which you are not required to report 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.

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.

