

HAI/AR monthly digest

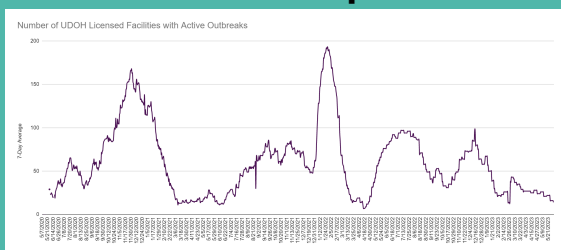
Utah Department of Health and Human Services
Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 23 | June 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.
- 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.

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 first micro-learn about blood [here](#).

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

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

This expert-led, peer-to-peer learning opportunity helps participants improve infection prevention programs by:

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

These 1 hour, bi-weekly sessions begin June 7, 2023. Register [here](#).

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 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.

Candida auris resources

New ICAR request process

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

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 live 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.

Changes to COVID-19 information and investigations

In preparation for the end of the public health emergency this month, HAI/AR changed our investigation process in March and have included a new chart to reflect the new data. Additionally, the COVID-19 communicable disease rule was updated. You no longer need to report negative antigen test results.

As we adjust to these new changes, we have modified this digest to focus less on COVID-19, beginning with incorporating COVID-19 guidance documents into the existing resources section (now found in the green sidebar). More changes may follow, as needed.

CDC updates

Changes to COVID-19 guidance and vaccine considerations

Following the end of the public health emergency, CDC has 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

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](#).

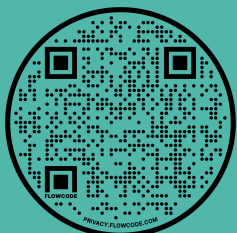
If your facility is a [long-term care facility](#), [skilled nursing facility](#), or [rehabilitation facility](#) use [enhanced barrier precautions](#).

- 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.



- 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, which can be found [here](#). 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 demographics form

When you schedule an ICAR with the HAI/AR team, you will be sent a demographics form to complete ahead of the visit. This demographic form requests numbers and details about your facility, including number of staff assigned to specific tasks, systems and policies to support infection control, and details on the units in your facility.

Completing this demographics form before the HAI/AR team arrives allows you to be sure that all of your information is correct. It also lets the HAI/AR team focus on other aspects of the ICAR, rather than spending time collecting this data.

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

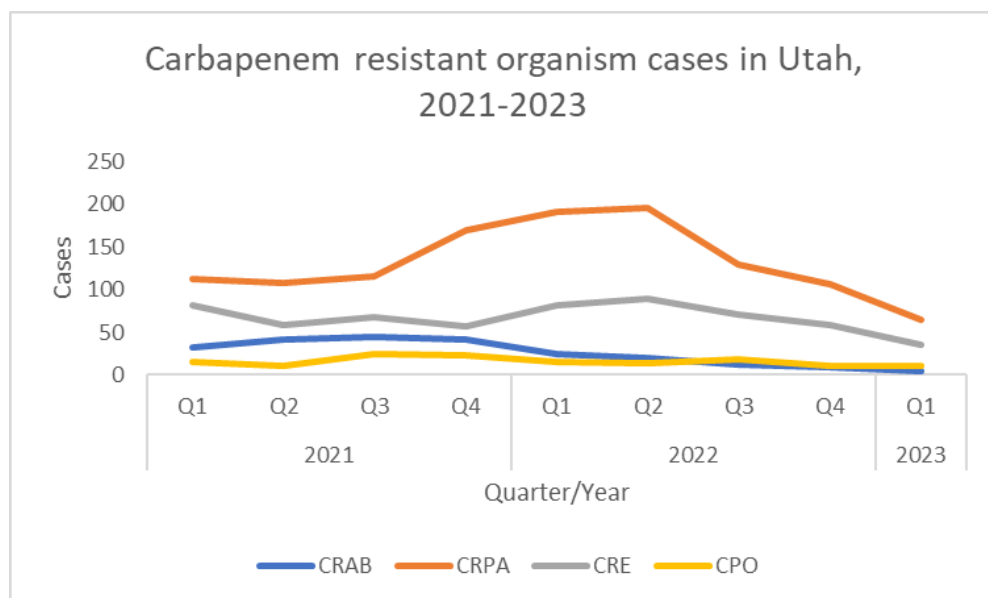
These resources are only available for a limited time to all long-term care settings in Utah: nursing facilities, assisted living, and intermediate care facilities. Email the Comagine team at InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org or check out their [website](#) to take advantage of this free support.

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).**



*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 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.*

