

HAI/AR monthly digest

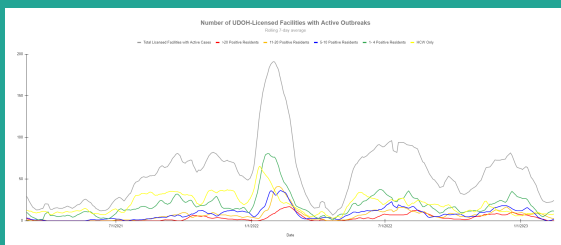
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 20 | March 2023

Did you read this month's
digest?

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

Utah LTCF situational update



New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

New and updated guidance documents can now be found on the long-term care facilities webpage, under the [For Long-Term Care Facility Providers](#) section.

Additionally, all of our COVID-19 documents are available on our new [HAI/AR program webpage](#).

Mental health resources

Visit the [mental health resources site](#) for information on available mental health resources in Utah.

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[Main website](#) This page links to our other program pages.

Updates

HAI/AR updates

Changes to COVID-19 investigations and graphs

HAI/AR is changing the way COVID-19 investigations are completed. After March, we will no longer collect data that allows us to provide our Utah LTCF situational update graph. We will work to create a new graphic to show our COVID-19 changes in LTCFs.

New Project Firstline modules

Project Firstline has launched two [new self-paced modules](#). This two-part series explores places where germs commonly live (reservoirs) and ways that germs spread (pathways). These interactive modules are a fantastic resource to learn about infection risks in healthcare settings.

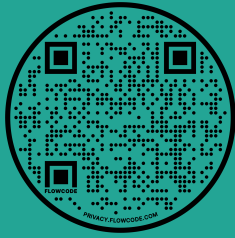
New infection prevention resources

The HAI/AR team has created two new resources to help reduce and prevent infections in your facility.

- The [Infection prevention and preparedness manual](#) is a comprehensive resource to assist long-term care settings to prepare for and prevent outbreaks of all kinds in their communities.
- The [Multidrug-resistant organisms guide](#) contains information on several of the most concerning

Questions?

For questions, visit our [long-term care facilities webpage](#) or email us at hai@utah.gov.



multidrug-resistant organisms in healthcare. It includes fact sheets for administrators as well as fact sheets and resources for frontline staff.

C. auris in Utah

- In February 2023, a case of *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) was identified in Utah. There are currently no additional cases.
- This brings the total identified cases in Utah to 2. However, there has been no evidence of spread within facilities or cases contracting *Candida auris* in Utah.
- There are still significant *C. auris* outbreaks in neighboring states. Screening is a vital tool to prevent further transmission. We strongly recommend using the [interfacility transfer form](#), as well as conducting screenings on all transfer patients from Nevada.

Comagine updates

Input requested from assisted living leaders

- Comagine Health needs input from industry leaders to help determine the next stage of development of infection prevention educational opportunities, tools, and resources for Utah's assisted living communities.
- Your individual responses and identity will be kept confidential. Comagine Health will use your input anonymously.
- To schedule a time to share your ideas, please email infectionpreventionadvisor@comagine.org

Infection prevention information session

- Join the Comagine Health infection prevention solutions team to learn about how they support long-term care facilities in improving their infection prevention and control programs.
- March 9, 2023 at 12 p.m. MST. Register [here](#)

CDC updates

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

The CDC released a statement on artificial tears contaminated by VIM CRPA, which can be found [here](#). The artificial tears in question are EzriCare and Delsam Pharma's artificial tears. 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.

Healthcare COVID-19 guidance

The CDC's new COVID-19 guidance for healthcare facilities can be found [here](#).

Remember to reference [community transmission](#), rather than community levels.

March spotlight:

Send us stories or pictures to highlight the amazing work you and your facility are doing. We want to spotlight your successes. Email your HAI/AR contact or hai@utah.gov to share your stories.

Education/information

Comagine Health's customized coaching and educational opportunities

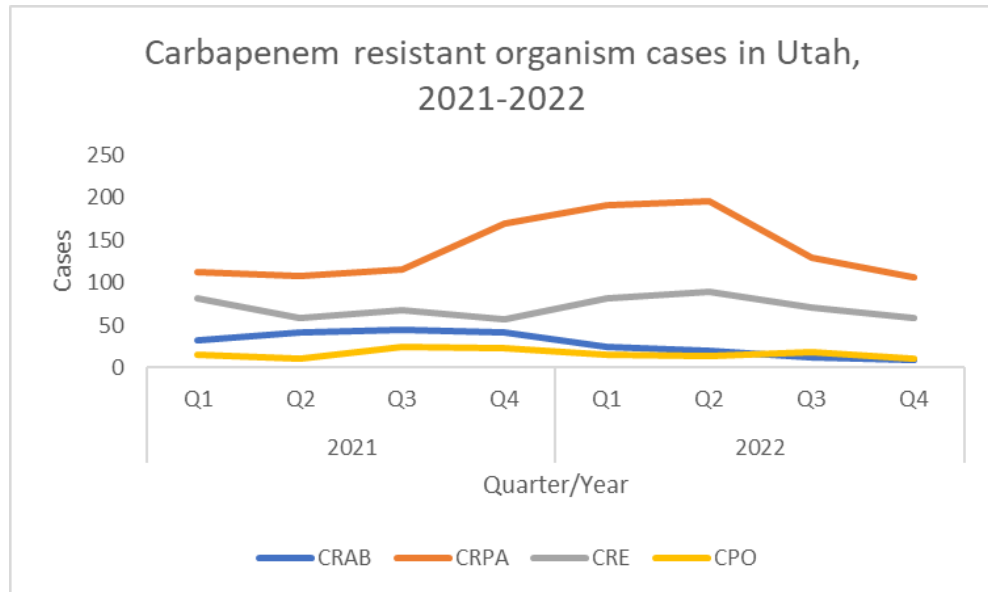
- Comagine Health has a team of dedicated infection prevention, quality improvement experts standing by to help you learn how to assess, strengthen, and sustain your infection prevention and control program.
- These resources are only available for a limited time to all long-term care settings in Utah: 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 December 31, 2022

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.

Resources

Candida auris information

- 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.

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

For questions or to schedule an ICAR appointment for assisted living facilities, please email HAI@utah.gov.

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.

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.

Project Firstline modules

You can find our self-paced Project Firstline modules [here](#). They are a great resource for staff training.

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Thank you.

