

HAI/AR monthly digest

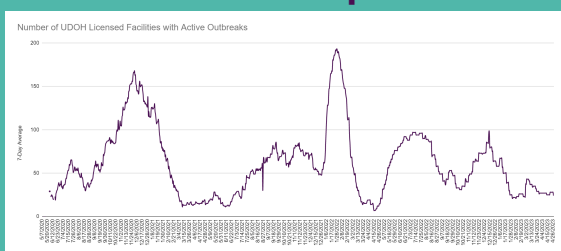
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 22 | May 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

We encourage you to utilize 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

Long-term care representatives needed

- We are looking for long-term care representatives to participate on the Utah Healthcare Infection Prevention Governance Committee (UHIP-GC). Committee members provide leadership and direction for healthcare-associated infection prevention and reporting activities in Utah. Email HAI@utah.gov for more information.

Comagine Health announces a 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 one-hour, bi-weekly sessions begin June 7, 2023. Register [here](#).

New ICAR request process

The HAI/AR team has created 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

Our documents are still available on the long-term care facilities webpage, under the [For Long-Term Care Facility Providers](#) section. However, some of these documents are not the updated version.

CDC COVID-19 healthcare guidance

Last updated Sept 2022. Remember to reference [community transmission](#) instead of community levels.

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

- 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 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

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.

These [modules](#) are great for new and continuing staff training.

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](#).

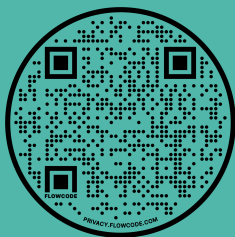
If your facility is a [long-term care facility](#), [skilled nursing facility](#), or [rehabilitation facility](#) use [enhanced barrier precautions](#).

- 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.



Education/information

Resource spotlight: ICAR visits

What are infection control assessment and response (ICAR) visits? You can request a complimentary visit from members of the HAI team for a non-punitive, non-regulatory assessment of your facility's infection control program. A range of infection control topics, such as hand hygiene, personal protective equipment (PPE) use, environmental cleaning, antibiotics, and sterilization and disinfection are discussed. The results of the HAI team's observations are designed to be used by healthcare facility staff to improve infection prevention and control at the facility. By using the ICAR tools, healthcare facilities can identify areas where their infection prevention and control practices may be lacking and develop targeted interventions to address those areas. Please [reach out](#) today to schedule your custom ICAR visit!

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.

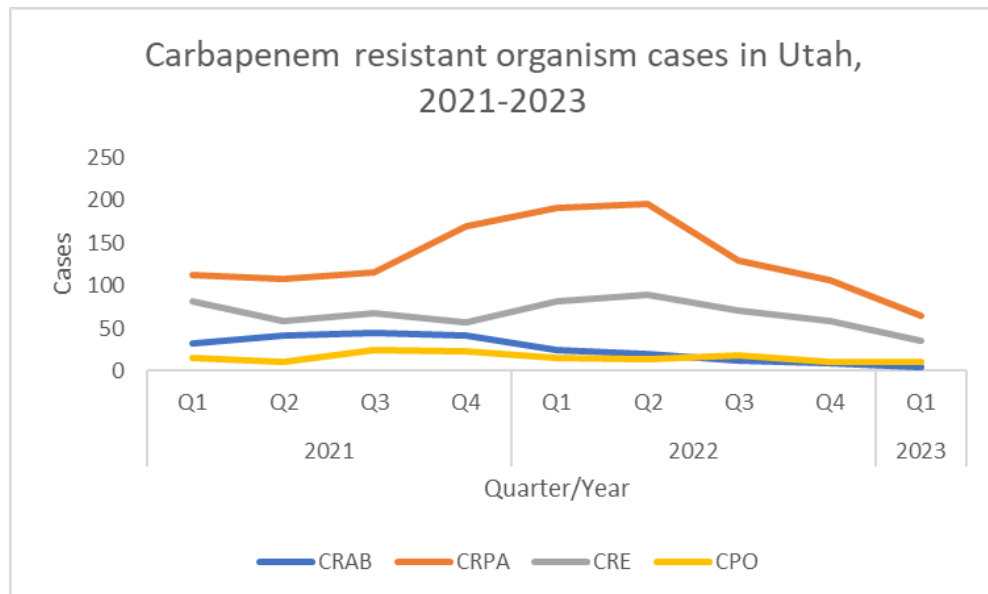
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

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.