

HAI/AR monthly digest

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

Issue 28 | November 2023

**Did you read this month's
digest?**

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

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.

CDC's COVID-19 **guidance** for healthcare facilities

Last updated May 8, 2023.
Considerations for COVID-19 vaccines can be found [here](#).

Updates

HAI/AR updates

New interfacility transfer form

A new interfacility transfer form has been developed to improve patient transfer communication. You can find and download the updated form [here](#). We want to remind you that verbal communication may be required in addition to completing the form to make sure important information is not missed.

Our thanks to the UHIP-GC MDRO subcommittee for developing this new form! If you would like to be part of this or other UHIP subcommittees, please email HAI@utah.gov.

Sign up for Utah's health alert network (HAN)

The DHHS Office of EMS and Preparedness sends HAN messages to share important information about urgent public health incidents with public health and healthcare partners. We encourage you to register and share this information with other providers.

[Register here](#) to receive future HAN messages. Contact unis@utah.gov with any questions.

New Project Firstline resources

Project Firstline developed a [multi-use training cards resource](#) to help you quickly train and refresh your staff's knowledge of infection prevention and control (IPC). These cards cover a variety of IPC topics, from standard precautions and PPE, to catheter care and MDROs.

CDC's Project Firstline team also released new [Cough and congestion](#) and [Draining wounds](#) micro-learns to help you share IPC principles with your staff. [Micro-learns](#) are short and

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

Use this [link](#) to request an ICAR appointment for assisted living facilities. For questions, email 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 not seen any additional cases in Utah recently.

adaptable guided discussions to help healthcare workers recognize infection risks and take action to stop the spread of germs.

Incorporate either of these quick, in-person resources into your next team meeting or huddle.

Antimicrobial stewardship webinar series

Sessions are held every third Wednesday at 12 p.m. MST. Free continuing medical education (CME) credits are available.

Details for the upcoming session:

Date: November 15, 2023

Speaker: Katryina Gouin, MPH, epidemiologist, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Topic: Optimizing antibiotic stewardship in long-term care: Latest updates from CDC

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

Seasonal vaccinations

Seasonal vaccines can be a useful tool to protect residents and staff. Vaccines that should be considered for the respiratory season include:

- The recently approved RSV vaccine, which is recommended for adults 60 years and older. Read more about the RSV vaccine [here](#).
- The newly approved updated COVID-19 shot, which is recommended for all adults. Read more about the COVID-19 vaccine [here](#).
- An annual influenza vaccine.

You can contact the DHHS Immunization Program representative, [Jeni Demeny](#), with questions about these vaccines.

Comagine Health updates

Comagine's NHSN open-hours

Do you have questions about the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)? Comagine hosts a NHSN open-hours to help you to find answers, get free training, and review NHSN updates. Upcoming sessions are Wednesday, November 29 and Wednesday, December 27 at 12 p.m. Click [here](#) to register.

If you need guidance in the meantime, check out Comagine's tip sheets.

- [Tips for NHSN COVID-19 Reporting](#)
- [Tips for Completing Your SAMS Registration](#)

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.

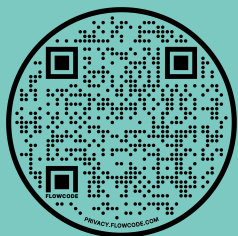
If your facility is a long-term care facility, skilled nursing facility, or rehabilitation facility use enhanced barrier precautions.

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.



Vaccination station web series

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

Collaborative “all teach, all learn” community for long-term care facilities

This interactive ECHO™ learning collaborative is held the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. MT. Register [here](#).

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

- Shared best practices
- An opportunity to troubleshoot real-life scenarios
- A chance to help each other bridge knowledge gaps

Members who actively participate in the 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

Comagine Health’s customized coaching and educational opportunities

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

CDC updates

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

The outbreak of VIM CRPA continues. The CDC recommends patients stop using EzriCare or Delsam Pharma's artificial tears pending additional information and guidance from CDC and FDA. 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.

Read the CDC's statement [here](#).

Education/information

Resource spotlight: ICAR module 5

Module 5 explores high-level disinfection and sterilization policies and procedures. This module is not applicable to facilities that don't perform high-level disinfection and sterilization on site. In that case, the ICAR assessor skips this module and continues with the ICAR.

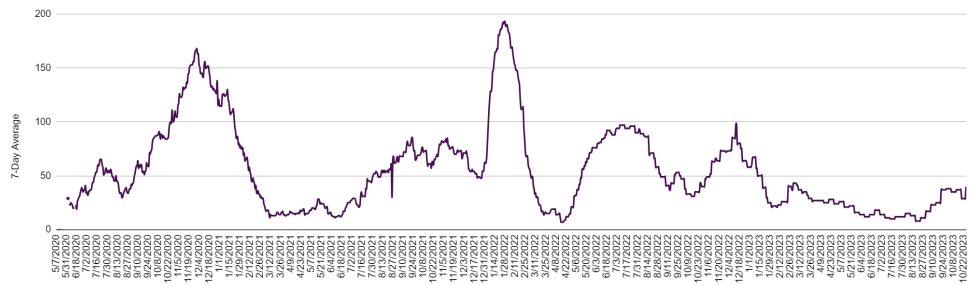
In applicable facilities, the interview and observation components will guide the evaluation of many aspects related to high-level disinfection and sterilization, including storage, processing, pre-cleaning, product choice, and instruction accessibility.

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

Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

As of October 31, 2023

Number of UDOH Licensed Facilities with Active Outbreaks



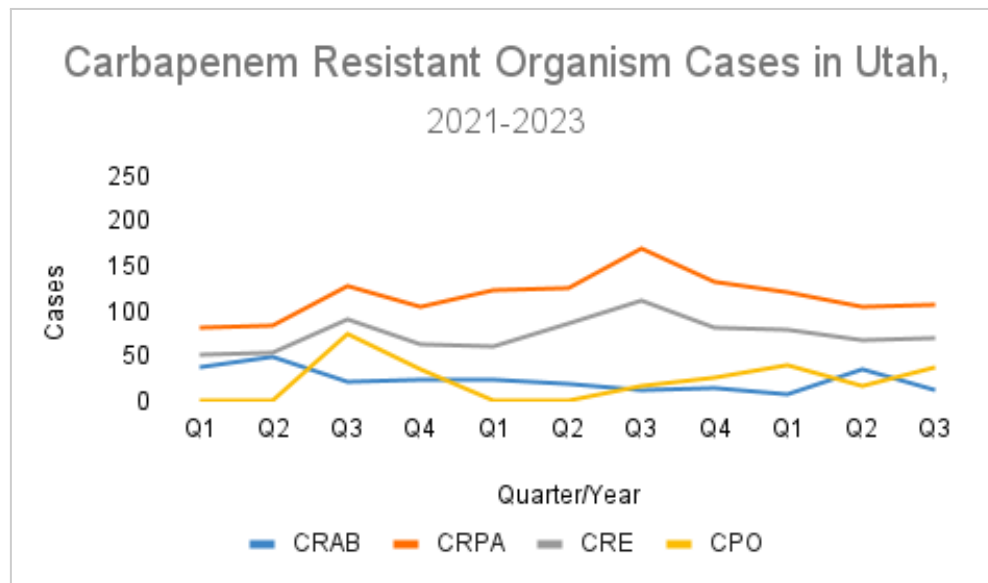
Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

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.

