

HAI/AR Monthly Digest

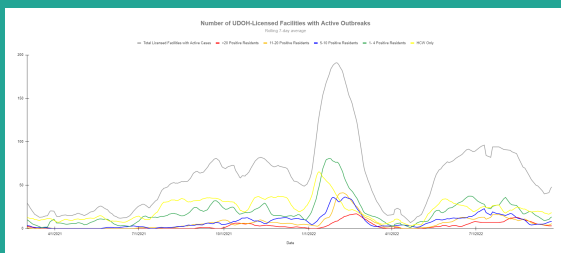
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 15 | October 2022

Did you read this month's digest?

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

Utah LTCF situational update



New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

The CDC recently updated COVID-19 guidance recommendations. We are working to update the LTCF website to align with those changes. In the meantime, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html> for the most up to date information.

New guidance documents can be found on the Long-Term Care Facilities webpage, under the [For Long-Term Care Facility Providers](#) section.

Connect with us

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Updates

HAI/AR update

Comagine Health's infection prevention solutions

- Comagine Health highlights a "Season of Safety" with 2 new educational events. These will take place throughout October and November.
 - Please see the attached document for event details and registration links.
- Visit their [website](#) to learn more or email Comagine Health at InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org

CDC update

Changes to COVID-19 guidance

- New COVID-19 guidance has been released by the CDC for healthcare facilities, which can be found [here](#). Notable changes include:
 - Long-term care specific guidance has been incorporated into overall healthcare guidance. Previous guidance for nursing homes has been archived.
 - Discontinuation of employee screening testing, regardless of vaccination status. Symptomatic and post exposure testing remain in place.
 - Discontinuation of quarantine and work restrictions for asymptomatic individuals.

Mental health resources

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

Questions?

For questions, visit our [Long-Term Care Facilities webpage](#) or email us at hai@utah.gov.



- Updates to source control measures, including adjusted mask use and other recommendations based on current [community transmission](#).
- Specific recommendations by setting (such as nursing homes or assisted living). Expect more information from HAI related to these recommendations.

- [CMS](#) now requires all POC tests be used in alignment with their emergency use authorization (EUA). Only some tests are authorized for use on asymptomatic individuals. Please check the [FDA list](#) of individual EUAs to make sure you use a test authorized for the proper setting and attributes. Home tests used by employees are not subject to these rules.

COVID-19 vaccine boosters

- The new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is now available. This bivalent vaccine is designed to offer greater protection against Omicron variants. The bivalent vaccine is given as a single booster dose.

Individuals are eligible for this bivalent booster if at least 2 months have passed since they completed the primary series or received a monovalent booster. We encourage you to consider including the bivalent vaccine with your annual flu vaccine clinic.

- A [recent study](#) published by CDC revealed a second mRNA COVID-19 booster dose during circulation of SARS-CoV-2 Omicron subvariants was 74% effective against severe COVID-19-related outcomes.

October spotlight:

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

Education/resources

LTC PAC Project ECHO sessions

- Join us for the next Long-Term and Post-Acute Care Project ECHO presentation on **Wednesday, October 12, 2022** from **11 am to 12 pm**.

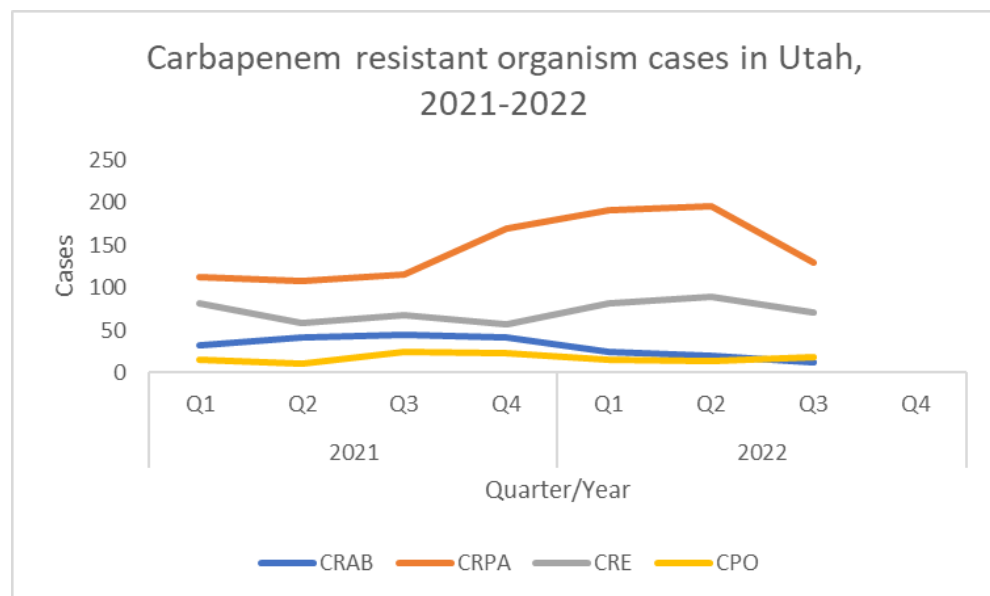
- Title: Updated COVID-19 Guidelines in LTC
- Register [here](#).
- We would love to have your input for future sessions. Please take [3 minutes to answer our survey!](#)

Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

As of September 30, 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 are not required to be reported 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 *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) outbreak in Nevada continues. The CDC recommends screening any resident who received care from a Nevada facility within the past 6 months. Please contact the Utah Public Health Lab (UPHL) at

arl@nutah.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.

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 1 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.

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

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

Project Firstline modules



Project Firstline

Project Firstline - Cleaning and Disinfection

FREE

Approximately 1/2 Hour
1 Module

- A new module on cleaning and disinfection is now available.
- You can find our self-paced Project Firstline modules [here](#). They are a great resource for training of staff.

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

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Thank you.



Utah Department of
Health & Human
Services