

# HAI/AR monthly digest

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

Issue 25 | August 2023

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

Yes No

## Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

To improve readability of this graph, it has been relocated to the education/information section at the end of this digest.

## 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.
- This webinar series happens at 12 p.m. MST, every third Wednesday beginning August 23.
- Click [here](#) if you want to participate, either as a viewer or a presenter. Free continuing medical education (CME) credits are available for those who participate.

#### Utah APIC education conference 2023

The Utah APIC education conference is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, at Thanksgiving Point Ashton Gardens. Early bird tickets are available until August 15 for \$35. The conference is open to all persons with infection prevention and control responsibilities in healthcare facilities. Register [here](#).

Confirmed topics include:

- Infection control regulatory standards and guidelines
- Role of nasal decolonization in HAI reduction
- Resilience
- Interventional epidemiology and research
- Bio-schematics and outbreak investigations
- Computer tools for infection preventionists

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

Sessions are open now for the Comagine Health Utah Infection Prevention Solutions team for the interactive ECHO™ learning collaborative for staff from Utah's long-term care facilities. Sessions are held the first and third Wednesday of each month from 11–12 pm MT. 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.

Considerations for COVID-19 vaccines can be found [here](#).

### **Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)**

Use this [link](#) to request an ICAR appointment for assisted living facilities. For questions, email [HA1@utah.gov](mailto:HA1@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 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 modules**

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

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

Upcoming dates and topics:

Wednesday, August 2: Clean hands = healthy people

Wednesday, August 16: Setting the standard for precautions

### **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 have received care 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.

### **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

Other Project Firstline resources are available on the [CDC's website](#).

### 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](mailto: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](#).

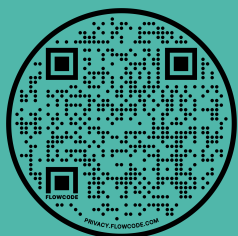
If your facility is a [long-term care facility](#), [skilled nursing facility](#), or [rehabilitation facility](#) use [enhanced barrier precautions](#).

- 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](mailto:HAI@utah.gov).



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 assessment module 2

The ICAR modules cover a variety of infection prevention practices and are a guide to discuss policies and practices of your facility. Some modules have corresponding observation components.

The second assessment module of the ICAR evaluates hand hygiene in your facility through interviews and observation. The module aims to explore both frequency and quality of hand hygiene, as well as other related infection risks, such as sink and lotion use.

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

## Comagine Health's customized coaching and educational opportunities

Comagine Health's **free** 1:1 infection prevention and control coaching helps your team provide the safest care for your residents through:

- expert-designed solutions for your staff's specific needs
- coaching for new infection prevention specialists and for busy staff who "do it all"
- evidence-based tools to improve your culture of safety

Completion of the coaching and consultation services provides access to additional **free** resources:

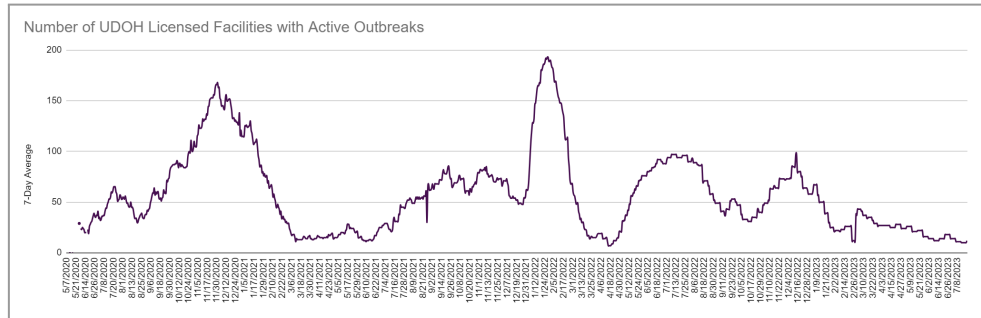
- one year of local and national APIC memberships
- technology solutions, such as webcams, tablets, speakers, and mobile hotspots
- PPE solutions: fit testing kits, N-95 masks, gloves, face shields, gowns
- air purifiers and a year's supply of filter refills from Medify Air

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](https://www.comagine.org) to take advantage of this free support.

## Utah LTCF COVID-19 situational update

As of July 31, 2023



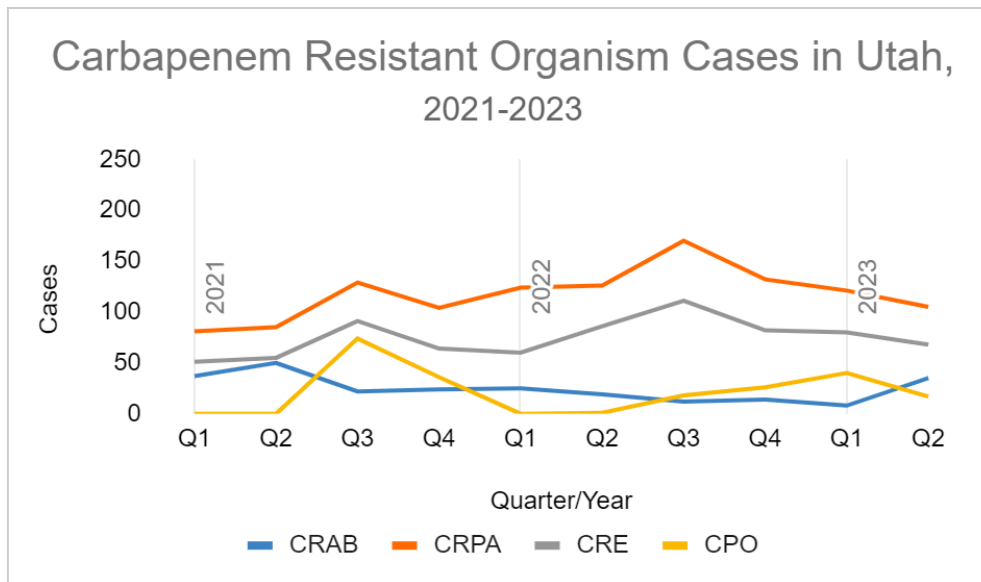
## Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

As of July 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 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 Lab.

**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](mailto:sarahrigby@utah.gov) directly.  
Thank you.*

