

HAI/AR Monthly Digest

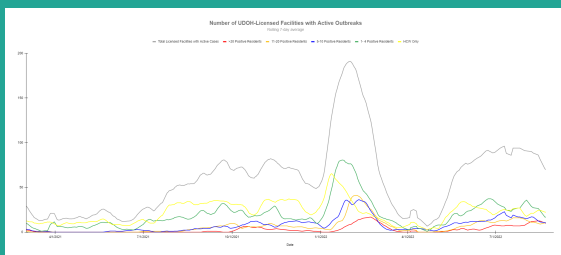
Utah Department of Health and Human Services Healthcare Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program

Issue 14 | September 2022

Did you read this month's digest?

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

Utah LTCF situational update



New DHHS COVID-19 guidance documents for LTCFs

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

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.

Connect with us

[Instagram](#) @utah.disease.response

[Facebook](#) Utah DREAM & HAI

Updates

HAI/AR update

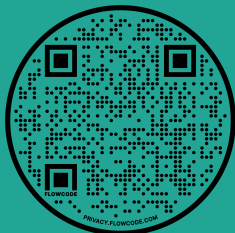
Comagine Health's infection prevention solutions

- As part of their prepare, prevent, protect series, Comagine is offering free customized coaching and consultation for your infection prevention program.
- Visit their [website](#) to learn more or email Comagine Health at InfectionPreventionAdvisor@comagine.org

Project Firstline modules



- The HAI/AR team has launched several free, self-paced [Project Firstline infection prevention training modules](#) for all frontline healthcare staff.
- These modules are available in both English and Spanish. More modules are currently in development.



CDC update

- The new bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is expected to be available early this month. This bivalent vaccine is designed to offer greater protection against Omicron variants. The bivalent vaccine is given as a single booster dose. We encourage you to consider including the bivalent vaccine with your annual flu vaccine clinic.
- [CDC updated Enhanced Barrier Precaution](#) recommendations on July 12, 2022. These precautions are now recommended for all nursing home residents who meet the following criteria:
 - Infection or colonization with a MDRO when contact precautions do not apply
 - Wounds and/or indwelling medical devices (e.g., central line, urinary catheter, feeding tube, tracheostomy/ventilator) regardless of MDRO colonization status

September 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, September 14, 2022** from **11 am to 12 pm**.
 - Title: Monkeypox: Long-term care guide to preparation and response
 - Register [here](#).
- We would love to have your input for future sessions. Please take [3 minutes to answer our survey!](#)

Antimicrobial resistance in Utah

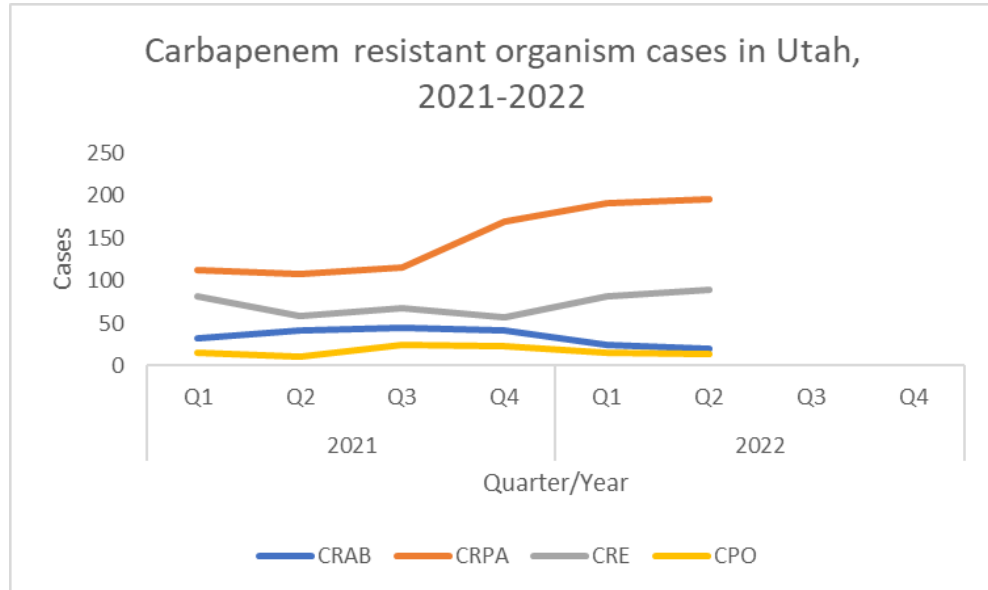
As of June 30, 2022

Carbapenem-resistant organisms

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.

Candida auris outbreak in Nevada

Nevada is currently experiencing a *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) outbreak in multiple healthcare facilities. It appears this outbreak started August 1, 2021 and still continues. *C. auris* is a hard to detect, emerging multidrug-resistant fungus that can be associated with high mortality rates. The CDC recommends screening for any resident who received care from a Nevada facility within the past 6 months. Please contact the Utah Public Health Lab (UPHL) at arlnutah@utah.gov to schedule a resident screening for *C. auris*.

If a case of *C. auris* is found at your facility follow these precaution recommendations:

- If your facility is a **hospital** or **long term acute care hospital**
 - Contact precautions
 - Perform hand hygiene before donning a gown and gloves.
 - Don gown and gloves before entering the affected patient/resident's room.

- Remove the gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene before exiting the patient/resident's room.
- If your facility is a **long term care facility, skilled nursing facility**, or **rehabilitation facility**:
 - [Enhanced barrier precautions](#)
 - Staff should wear gown and gloves before they perform any high-contact resident care activities when the potential for exposure to body fluids or secretions exists, such as:
 - Bathing or providing hygiene to residents
 - Resident transfers
 - Assisting residents with toileting
 - Changing residents' briefs
 - Changing a wound dressing
 - Manipulating patient devices, (e.g., urinary catheter)
 - These precautions apply to residents colonized or infected with an MDRO and all 'high-risk' residents.
 - High-risk residents include those with:
 - Central venous catheters
 - Urinary catheters
 - Feeding tubes
 - Drains
 - Ventilators
 - Tracheostomy
 - Wounds

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.

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR)

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

Connect with us

[Instagram](#) @utah.disease.response

[Facebook](#) Utah DREAM & HAI

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.*

