

**Public Reporting and Public Education  
HAI Advisory Subcommittee  
Meeting Summary  
October 10, 2025  
1:00 – 2:00 PM**

**Voting Members Present**

Carolyn Caughell (Chair), Deksha Taneja, Francesca Torriani

**Voting Members Absent**

Ariana Longley, Zachary Rubin

Meeting started at 1:03 PM.

**Item 1. Review and approve meeting summary**

Voting members approved the March 10, 2025, meeting summary.

**Item 2. Public Reporting**

**Standardizing Public Outbreak Reporting Criteria**

The subcommittee discussed standardization of public reporting criteria for outbreaks, with Carolyn presenting an example from LA County. Francesca expressed uncertainty about the differences between current practices and the proposed standardization.

Deksha explained that while counties may have specific requirements, general outbreak reporting can vary. The discussion highlighted the need for more clarity on what types of outbreaks the standardization would apply to and whether one size could fit all.

**Hospital Data Transparency Debate**

The subcommittee discussed concerns about sharing hospital outbreak data publicly, with Francesca emphasizing that transparency could deter hospitals from collaborating with public health officials. It was agreed that while transparency is important, publishing detailed hospital data would not help the public and could hinder outbreak control efforts. Carolyn raised a question about MDRO outbreaks in hospitals, which Francesca explained are typically handled internally through testing and prevalence checks rather than public reporting.

**Reporting Contaminated Medication Incidents**

Francesca shared a past experience where a rare bacterium commonly found in CF patients was detected in non-CF patients through respiratory cultures, leading to an investigation that revealed the contamination of a medication. She emphasized the importance of reporting unusual occurrences to public health authorities, as delays in reporting can hinder outbreak detection and resolution. Carolyn and Francesca agreed that hospitals are already required to report such incidents and receive assistance from public health agencies when needed, so there is no need to change current practices.

### *Candida auris* Outbreak Management

Francesca and Deksha discussed the importance of having data on *Candida auris* outbreaks to better understand its prevalence, particularly in Los Angeles. Valerie shared an example from Carol Moss about informing the public about food safety issues, which led to a broader discussion about the need to educate or notify the public about potential health risks in hospitals. Francesca emphasized that the primary duty in the case of an outbreak is to protect patients by taking necessary measures and notifying those who may have been exposed.

### Enhancing Public Health Data Access

The subcommittee discussed the existing reporting systems for healthcare outbreaks and foodborne illnesses, with Deksha highlighting the importance of making public health data more accessible to the public. They agreed that rather than creating new grading systems for hospitals, it would be more beneficial to improve the visibility of existing outbreak information through public announcements and PSAs.

### **Item 3. Discuss future meeting agenda items**

The subcommittee will consider the following:

- Making CDPH CAHAN alerts more accessible to the public.
- Explore options for public service announcements regarding relevant outbreaks.

Next meeting scheduled for November 10, 2025.

Meeting adjourned at 1:57 PM.