

HAI PROGRAM INSIDER

California Department of Public Health (CDPH)



IN THIS ISSUE

**ENHANCED STANDARD
PRECAUTIONS (ESP)**

**EXTERNSHIP FOR LOCAL
PUBLIC HEALTH INFECTION
PREVENTIONISTS**

**RECENT UPDATES AND
RECOMMENDED READING**

**ACUTE CARE HOSPITALS
IP COURSE**

**COURSES AND
TRAININGS**

**GET INVOLVED +
CONTACT US**

Enhanced Standard Precautions (ESP)

ESP is a resident-centered and activity-based approach for preventing multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) transmission in skilled nursing facilities (SNF). CDPH updated ESP guidance in 2022 to simplify and facilitate implementation, and to address large, sustained, regional outbreaks of previously rare MDROs in California.

CDPH's ESP webpage offers learning modules, a toolkit, and other resources to assist SNFs with ESP implementation. Learning modules are approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing for 2.0 contact hours per course taken.

Visit the [ESP webpage](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ESP.aspx) (www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/ESP.aspx) to learn more about ESP.

ESP continued

The ESP webpage includes many useful resources, including an ESP Readiness Checklist, Templates for Infection Prevention Plans and Risk Assessments, Six Moments of ESP Signage, Six Moments for ESP Pamphlet, Adherence Monitoring Tools, Interfacility Transfer Communication Forms, FAQs and Resource Guide.



Enhanced Standard Precautions



EVERYONE MUST: Perform hand hygiene before entering the room



ANYONE PARTICIPATING IN ANY OF THESE SIX MOMENTS MUST ALSO: Don gown and gloves



Change and discard gown and gloves and perform hand hygiene between each resident and before leaving room.

Externship for Local Public Health Infection Preventionists

The COVID-19 pandemic and associated increases in HAI and MDROs highlighted an increasing need for Infection Preventionist (IP) capacity in local health departments (LHDs). The Public Health Infection Preventionist Capacity Externship Program (PHIPCEP) offers acute care hospital experience to new LHD IPs. LHD IP externs will shadow more experienced hospital IPs for 80 hours, learn how to perform adherence monitoring, assist with facility outbreak investigations, review the hospital's Infection Prevention plans, and much more!

The hospital benefits from participation in PHIPCEP by establishing an ongoing personal relationship with their LHD and specifically their public health IP. In addition, hospital infection prevention programs that host an IP extern may be eligible for up to \$10,000 reimbursement via the CDPH HAI Program for staff member(s) attendance at a relevant professional conference or training, e.g., APIC Annual Conference.

To learn more about the LHD requirements for the PHIPCEP Program, contact Teresa.Nelson@cdph.ca.gov or HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov.



COVID-19 Updates

End of California's COVID-19 State of Emergency

Governor Gavin Newsom issued a proclamation terminating the state's COVID-19 State of Emergency, on February 28, 2023.

The state's [SMARTER Plan](https://covid19.ca.gov/smarter/) (covid19.ca.gov/smarter/) will maintain California's operational preparedness to address the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic and will continue to guide the state's work to support communities across the state.

End of the Federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Declaration

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced the expiration for the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) for COVID-19 on May 11, 2023.

Healthcare personnel should refer to the [CDC Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html)

(www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html) for guidance on source control and routine practices, as this guidance continues to apply after the expiration of the federal COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

CDPH COVID Mailbox Update

Effective June 1, 2023, the covHAI@cdph.ca.gov mailbox is no longer monitored. For COVID-related matters, please email HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov and include the topic of your inquiry in the subject line (e.g., PPE question, etc.) The HAI Program inbox is monitored during business hours, Monday-Friday. Healthcare facilities should contact their local health department regarding urgent outbreak concerns. Local health departments with urgent concerns during evenings, weekends, and holidays, should contact the CDPH Duty Officer.

Recommended Reading

Increased Hospitalizations Involving Fungal Infections during COVID-19 Pandemic, United States, January 2020–December 2021

Hospitalizations involving fungal infections increased 8.5% each year in the United States during 2019–2021. During 2020–2021, patients hospitalized with COVID-19–associated fungal infections had higher (48.5) in-hospital mortality rates than those with non–COVID-19–associated fungal infections (12.3%). Improved fungal disease surveillance is needed, particularly during respiratory virus pandemics.

Gold JAW, Adjei S, Gundlapalli AV, Huang YLA, Chiller T, Benedict K, et al. Increased hospitalizations involving fungal infections during COVID-19 pandemic, United States, January 2020–December 2021. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2023 Jul.

<https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2907.221771>

Candida auris–Associated Hospitalizations, United States, 2017–2022

Using a large US hospital database, the authors reviewed 192 *Candida auris*–associated hospitalizations during 2017–2022, including 38 (20%) *Candida auris* bloodstream infections. Hospitalizations involved extensive concurrent conditions and healthcare use; estimated crude mortality rate was 34%. These findings underscore the continued need for public health surveillance and *Candida auris* containment efforts.

Benedict K, Forsberg K, Gold JAW, Baggs J, Lyman M. *Candida auris*–associated hospitalizations, United States, 2017–2022. *Emerg Infect Dis.* 2023 Jul.

<https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2907.230540>





Acute Care Hospitals (ACH) Infection Preventionist Online Training Course

The HAI Program is pleased to introduce a new self-guided course designed specifically for ACH IPs. This course is available online and includes 20 hours of instruction, which can be granted as continuing education credits for participants who finish the course. The curriculum is designed to provide guidance for planning and implementing effective IP programs in ACH. Focusing on strategies for preventing HAIs including central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), *Clostridioides difficile* infections (CDI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), surgical site infections (SSI), COVID-19, and pneumonia, participants will learn how to analyze hospital HAI data to inform IP programs, track and report adherence to prevention measures, and provide feedback to hospital staff.

This course features 6 more hours of instruction than the previous in-person course. The new information includes:

- Antibiotic Resistance, Antibiotic Stewardship, and Outbreaks and Unusual Occurrences (includes a Foodborne Illnesses module)
- Other Infections and Specialty Area Infection Prevention Considerations
- Performing a Facility Risk Assessment & Writing IPC Plan and Adult Learning Principles
- Resources for Acute Healthcare Facility Infection Preventionists
- Communications
- Acute Care Adventures: From Surveillance and Beyond (Practice Quiz)

The course also includes optional office hours which are a good opportunity for participants to ask questions and reinforce learning material. These office hours will be held Tuesdays from 10:00am - 11:00am on Zoom and are moderated by HAI Program infection preventionists. In addition to course review, sessions may also feature guest speakers and case study applications.

Register and access the course via the [IP Training for ACH Online Course Landing Page](https://www.cdph.ca/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/InfectionPrevention/InfectionControl/Pages/ACH-IP-Training-Online-Course-Landing-Page.aspx) (reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=76&wp=908&aid=HAIP)

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|---|--|--|
|  <p>A-IP Course with and Introduction to Implicit Bias ACH An Introduction to Implicit Bias Objectives: Implicit Bias Define the term "implicit bias" Discuss how implicit bias affects a real-world situation ...show more</p> <p>Join Wait List</p> |  <p>B-The Role of the Infection Preventionist and Core Infection Prevention Practices ACH The Role of the Infection Preventionist Objectives: - Describe the role of infection preventionists (IP) in health care - Discuss relationships imp ...show more</p> <p>Register Now</p> |  <p>C-Standard and Transmission-based Precautions ACH Standard Precautions Objectives: -Describe all 6 elements of Standard precautions -Review adherence monitoring results and tools for select Standard ...show more</p> <p>Register Now</p> |
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Register for an Infection Prevention Training Course



[Infection Prevention Training for Skilled Nursing Facilities Online Course](#)

(reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=76&wp=427&aid=HAIP)

Course registration is currently on hold until the course is updated. The new course will be 16 hours in length, released later Spring 2023.

This online course provides practical guidance for implementing an infection prevention program in a SNF using evidence-based guidelines for preventing HAIs including CLABSI, CDI, CAUTI, COVID-19, and pneumonia. Participants will learn how to measure staff adherence to infection prevention care practices and educate and provide feedback to staff. Participants will also learn how to use their facility HAI data to focus infection prevention strategies, conduct an outbreak investigation, and how to implement the essential activities to prevent employee infections. The course includes online office hours to allow participants to ask questions live and provide a flexible experience.

[Local Health Department Infection Preventionist Online Course](#)

(reg.learningstream.com/view/view_month.aspx?as=76&wp=443&aid=HAIP)

This course will be updated and available late Summer 2023.

This online course provides foundational infection prevention and control training for IP specialists working in local health departments. Participants will learn evidence-based recommendations for preventing healthcare-associated infections including CLABSI, CDI, urinary tract infections (UTI), pneumonia, and SSI, as well as the basics of microbiology and antimicrobial resistance, and steps for investigating HAI outbreaks. Participants will learn skills and tools for performing facility-based infection control assessments, measuring adherence to infection prevention care practices, and providing feedback to staff. Participants will also learn how to use facility HAI data to focus infection prevention strategies and how to access additional resources and available support for LHD IPs. This 14-hour self-paced course is designed for public health professionals to work around their schedule and does not have to be completed in one session.

Get Involved

[Project Firstline](#)

(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCO/HAI/Pages/ProjectFirstline_Resources.aspx)

Project Firstline is a CDC-funded initiative that provides infection prevention and control education and training to frontline healthcare workers. In California, Project Firstline has an 8-module training program for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA). CNA may review course content on the Project Firstline resource page; SNF leadership may also use the content to train CNA at their individual facilities. A Toolkit and Implementation Guide is forthcoming. Join the [Project Firstline distribution list](#) (cdph-marketing.powerappsportals.com/HAI/HAI-Registration/) to receive announcements.

[Antimicrobial Stewardship Program Honor Roll](#)

(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCO/HAI/Pages/Honor_Roll.aspx)

The HAI Program is pleased to recognize top performing antimicrobial stewardship programs in California. The goals of the ASP Honor Roll are to promote optimal use of antimicrobials, prevent emergence of AR and CDI, and to showcase California healthcare facility ASP that not only follow national guidelines, but also demonstrate outcomes and engage their local healthcare community.

Contact Us:

HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov

www.cdph.ca.gov/HAI