

Local and Tribal Health Department (LTHD) Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) and Infection Prevention Training Program

Program goals

The purpose of this program is to provide LTHD staff with infection prevention and control (IPC) education and experiences that strengthen local capacity to respond to HAI, multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO), and infection prevention questions and concerns from health care facilities in their communities.

Methods

Education is provided through self-paced trainings and other resources, meeting regularly with HAI Prevention Program staff, collaborating with other participants, and meeting with infection preventionists (IPs) and other health care professionals in the participant's jurisdiction and region. Additional hands-on experiences will be offered by attending on-site visits with regional IPs or responding to outbreaks.

Participation

This is a six-month program. Participants must be able to dedicate approximately four to five hours a week participating in the program. Participants are expected to fully participate in the program activities, which include:

- Completing self-paced workbook activities.
- Attending program meetings (such as section introductions and closings and other scheduled presentations).
- Participating in discussion and providing feedback to other participants.
- Attending on-site visits and other meetings or calls with the assigned regional IP.
- Submitting pre and post-tests for each section.

Flexibility and accommodations to the program schedule will be made if there are conflicts that need to take priority.

Reimbursement

As part of CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) funding for this project, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services is able to reimburse LTHDs for the time their staff member spends fully participating in this program. The specific mechanism by which this happens is flexible and may need to be customized to best meet the needs of the LTHD and meet federal, state, and local funding requirements. Program participants and their supervisors are encouraged to discuss this with [HAI Prevention Program leadership \(dhswihaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov\)](mailto:dhswihaipreventionprogram@dhs.wisconsin.gov).

Education

Each of the seven program sections will be accompanied by a workbook with activities that cover information and material related to the section topic. The activities include reviewing various webpages, reading articles, watching training videos, and working through case studies. Each activity in the workbook also includes knowledge check questions. The knowledge check questions range from true or false, fill-in the blank, and short answer, as well as opinion-based questions. Workbooks are self-paced and completed independently. However, participants are expected to complete the workbook within the corresponding section and are expected to discuss the activities with HAI Prevention Program staff and other participants.

Each section of the program will open with an introduction presentation and close with a closing discussion. Throughout the sections there will also be scheduled presentations and discussions on particular subjects which may also include assigned readings or pre-work. Participants will also meet with their assigned regional IP to get to know each other and discuss program activities or region-specific outbreaks or IPC challenges. These meetings may recur on a basis determined mutually convenient by the regional IP and participant.

Please note that expected meeting dates are subject to change. Meeting invitations will be sent to participants via email by HAI Prevention Program staff. If you know you will be unable to attend a specific meeting, please notify your regional IP or program staff.

Section 1: Introduction and networking opportunities

Objectives	By the end of this section: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Understand the role of LTHDs in the prevention and control of HAIs and antimicrobial resistance (AR).✓ Identify the Healthcare Emergency Readiness Coalition (HERC), public health, and Division of Quality Assurance (DQA) regions of Wisconsin.✓ Understand the makeup of the AR Lab Network.
Summary	This introductory section will provide an overview of the CDC HAI Prevention Program structure including the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) and how public health intersects with health care facilities regarding HAIs and infection prevention and control (IPC). Participants will begin to create connections with other IPs and LTHD staff from around the state through regular check-in meetings that will continue throughout the program. Participants will also have the opportunity to meet with facility IPs in onsite tours and infection control assessment and response (ICAR) visits to establish lasting relationships with health care entities and staff.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Program meet and greet: Monday, October 2, 9–10 a.m.• Introduction: Thursday, October 5, 9–10 a.m.• Closing: Thursday, October 12, 9–10 a.m.

Section 2. Prevention and control of infectious agents

Objectives	By the end of this section:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Identify the five types of isolation precautions. ✓ Identify which type of precaution is most appropriate for specific diseases. ✓ Explain the components of a Respiratory Protection Program (RPP). ✓ Identify appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for each type of precaution. ✓ Differentiate when alcohol-based hand rub (ABHR) is appropriate versus soap and water for hand hygiene. ✓ Explain the partnership between employee health and infection control.
Summary	This section covers foundational topics related to the prevention and control of various infectious agents, including employee health response to exposures, source control, and much more. Participants will also learn about the unique IPC needs and practices in other types of outpatient settings such as dialysis, dental, or ambulatory clinics. This section will help LTHDs better understand important aspects of infection prevention in health care facilities.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Monday, October 16, 9–10 a.m. • Infection prevention in specific settings group discussion: Thursday, October 26, 9–10:30 a.m. • Closing: Thursday, November 9, 9–10 a.m.

Section 3. Identification and response to infectious diseases

Objectives	<p>By the end of this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Interpret common lab reports and results. ✓ Interpret the CDC <i>Guidelines for Isolation Precautions</i>. ✓ Identify targeted MDROs. ✓ Explain the difference between colonization and active infection with an MDRO. ✓ Explain the importance of an antimicrobial stewardship program.
Summary	Proper laboratory identification of infectious diseases is essential for determining the risk of infection and needed interventions to interrupt the disease process to prevent or mitigate transmission. Accurate identification can also help determine necessary care for the patient or resident. This section will cover interpreting, reporting, and responding to lab results for various infectious diseases and how proper identification and response can prevent the emergence of resistant microorganisms from occurring.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Monday, November 13, 9–10 a.m. • Antibiotic stewardship presentation: Thursday, November 30, 10–11 a.m. • Closing: Thursday, December 7, 9–10 a.m.

Section 4. Surveillance and epidemiologic investigations

Objectives	<p>By the end of this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ List types of device-associated HAIs. ✓ Define an outbreak. ✓ Define clinical and surveillance infections.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand how to mitigate the risks associated with indwelling devices.
Summary	The main goal of any outbreak investigation is to promptly identify pathogens, stop ongoing disease transmission, and reduce risks for the future. Communication and cooperation between the LTHD, health care team, and facility IP are essential for success in these areas. This section will review factors that affect surveillance programs in health care facilities, such as changing reporting requirements, novel MDROs and increasing antibiotic resistance, outbreaks, data collection, and response.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Monday, December 11, 9–10 a.m. • National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) presentation: Thursday, December 14, 9–10 a.m. • Group case study: Monday, January 8, 9–11 a.m. • Closing: Thursday, January 11, 9–10 a.m.

Section 5. Environmental factors

Objectives	By the end of this section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Assess potential environmental infection risks. ✓ Explain the purpose of an infection control risk assessment (ICRA). ✓ Explain the role of an IP on an ICRA team. ✓ Identify the components of a water management plan.
Summary	The health care environment can be an overlooked source of HAIs. Eliminating environmental infectious agents is an important focus area to limit transmission. This section addresses the role of IPC in the environment with a specific focus on ventilation, water management, construction risks, and environmental surfaces in health care facilities. Additional information on wastewater testing will also be provided.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Thursday January 14, 9–10 a.m. • Environment of care rounding presentation: Monday, January 22, 9–10:30 a.m. • Closing: Thursday, February 8, 9–10 a.m.

Section 6. Disinfection and sterilization

Objectives	By the end of this section: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Understand the difference between cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization in a health care facility. ✓ Explain the importance of cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization in a health care facility. ✓ Explain the safest cleaning and disinfection process. ✓ Identify appropriate cleaning and disinfection agents. ✓ Implement dwell, or contact, time correctly. ✓ Interpret the Spaulding classification. ✓ Identify what needs to be included in disinfection and sterilization process documentation. ✓ Identify to whom a device-associated outbreak should be reported.
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Summary	Properly disinfected and sterilized instruments and medical devices reduce the risk for HAIs. This section will review the importance of following specific manufacturer-validated instructions for disinfection and sterilization processes, including how LTHDs can work collaboratively with the facility IP, risk managers, and other members of the health care team to prevent further transmission if disinfection and sterilization processes fail to occur. This section will also cover important supports like documentation of process completion, auditing, and investigations to determine breaches.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Monday, February 11, 9–10 a.m. • Closing: Thursday, February 29, 9–10 a.m.

Section 7. Administration and resources

Objectives	<p>By the end of this section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Define and explain the importance of a Quality Assurance Process Improvement (QAPI) program. ✓ Identify guidance to consider for implementing evidence-based infection prevention practices. ✓ Understand the purpose and role of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ✓ Explain the role of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).
Summary	This section will review important administrative relationships plus introduce participants to accrediting and regulatory agencies that affect IPC programs. Although regulatory agencies, such as CMS, drive most health care policies, even voluntary accrediting agencies have had a positive impact on infection prevention. A brief description of the agencies, their relationships to each other, and their impact on IPC programs will be provided.
Expected meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction: Monday, March 4, 9–10 a.m. • Closing: Monday, March 11, 9–10 a.m. • Program wrap-up: Thursday, March 14, 9–10 a.m.

Feedback

Participants are encouraged to share feedback on the program structure, education, and more. Opportunities to provide feedback will be offered throughout the program through open-ended discussion and post-tests.