

Local Health Department (LHD) Infection Preventionist (IP) Support & Education Forum

Kick-Off
May 6, 2021

Healthcare-Associated Infections Program
Center for Health Care Quality
California Department of Public Health

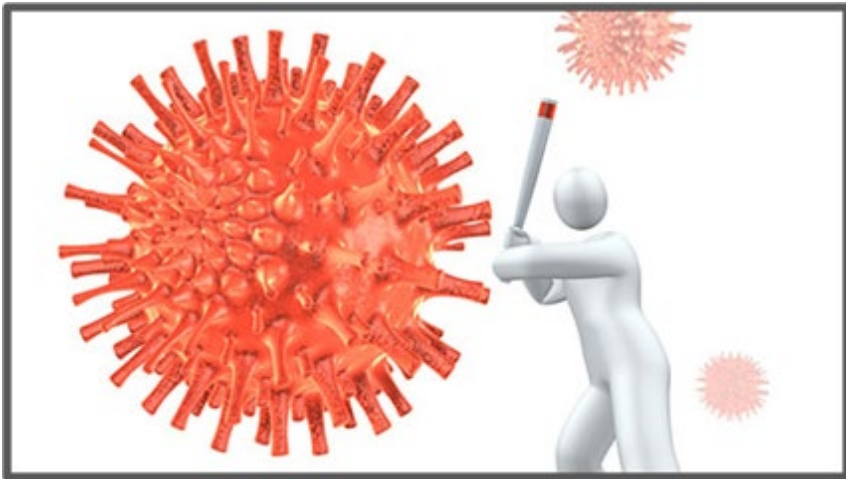


Agenda

11AM	Welcome
11:05AM	Who are LHD IPs?
	What is the HAI Program?
	What is the role of an IP in a LHD?
	How can LHD IPs develop expertise?
11:45AM	Q&A
11:55AM	Closing Remarks

WHO ARE WE?

Support for LHD IPs



CDC

- Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) “Enhanced Detection” program award to CDPH
- Build capacity at LHD for response to COVID-19 and future threats

CDPH

- Described conditions for awarding funds to LHD
- Strategy 6: Hire at least one full-time IP*

*ELC Expansion provides support to maintain IP through July 2023

LHD IP Staffing



As of 5.1.21

- 51 (88%) LHDs have IP in place
 - Includes 5 LHDs with interim IPs pending recruit for “permanent” IP
- 35 (60%) LHDs with one (or more) full-time IP position
- 22 (38%) LHDs with two half-time IPs

LHD IP Backgrounds



Varied backgrounds

- 52 (66%) nursing
- Also, epidemiology, communicable disease investigation, health education, other
- 6 (10%) LHDs have hired experienced IPs (defined as having worked as an IP in a hospital or other clinical setting)

HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS PROGRAM

CDPH IP Resource: HAI Program

Infection prevention and control subject matter experts

- Oversees the prevention, surveillance, detection, response, and reporting of HAI and antimicrobial resistance (AR) in California's hospitals and other healthcare facilities
- Comprised of physicians, epidemiologists, IPs, health communicators, data managers, others

HAI Program IP Regional Team Structure

- 4 teams each assigned to a geographic region (Northern, North Bay area, Central, Southern)
 - IP Team Lead with additional HAI IP on each team
 - Perform onsite assessments to assist local public health agencies to investigate unusual infection occurrences and outbreaks that occur in healthcare facilities
 - Also provide support for building the IP workforce through education and mentoring
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Opportunities for Support of LHD IPs

Following completion of LHD IP training course...

- HAI Program IP Teams to establish mentorship and collaborative partnerships with and among LHD IP by matching specific LHDs to each HAI IP team
- Potential academic and health system partnerships

When to Contact the HAI Program

- Current infection prevention education and training resources
- Questions about IPC recommendations and practices
- Conducting onsite infection prevention assessments in your jurisdiction's healthcare facilities
- Assistance with investigation and response to unusual infectious disease occurrences and outbreaks that occur in healthcare facilities and other congregate settings in your jurisdiction
- Participation in statewide or regional HAI/antimicrobial resistance (AR) prevention collaboratives

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE LHD IP?

Background

- LHD have the public health authority to investigate and respond to communicable disease outbreaks in their jurisdictions, including outbreaks occurring in healthcare facilities
- Most LHD have not previously employed trained, experienced IPs (nor dedicated staff to perform IP activities)
- Public health IP support is critical for outbreak prevention and containment in facilities at high risk for COVID-19 and other infectious disease outbreaks, such as skilled nursing facilities (SNF), where facility-level IP expertise is frequently limited

Essential Functions of the ELC-Supported LHD IP

- **Capacity:** Build IPC expertise within the LHD by hiring at least one full-time IP with appropriate education and experience [or for small jurisdictions, designating nurses with IPC interest or MPH staff to IPC activities]
- **Training:** Ensure IP or IP-designated staff receive comprehensive IPC training (14- hour course and ongoing support/education offered by the CDPH HAI Program starting Spring 2021)
- **Prevention:** Engage with SNF and other high-risk congregate settings for preventing outbreaks and decreasing disease transmission; expand to schools or other higher risk community settings as resources allow
- **Response:** In response to COVID-19 and other HAI outbreaks, perform onsite IPC assessments, provide IPC recommendations, and follow-up to ensure recommendations are implemented
- **Partner:** Establish partnerships, such as with local or regional organizations, academic institutions, and CDPH HAI Program or others to enhance IPC capacity and expertise

The Role of the Infection Preventionist in LHD

- Professional Standards Expert / Infection Prevention Expert
- Evaluator and Consultant
- Educator, Mentor, and Leader
- Liaison and Collaborator

Each LHD may fulfill these roles in different capacities. However, this new opportunity to have a full-time IP (or two persons sharing an IP position) places staff within the LHD who is devoted to developing IP expertise and integrating the IP roles, and committed to IP activities.

Professional Standards Expert / Infection Prevention Expert

- Maintain familiarity with infection prevention, evidence-based recommendations and guidelines
- Provide infection prevention resources and support to healthcare and other congregate-living facilities (e.g., shelters, correctional facilities, etc.)
- Qualifications for LHD-based IP include
 - Background in nursing, microbiology, or epidemiology preferred
 - Basic IP training, including an IP fundamentals course
 - Willingness to work hard, listen, and question

Evaluator and Consultant

- Perform onsite assessments of IPC practices, and provide feedback and recommendations to mitigate gaps (consultative versus regulatory role)
 - Provide ongoing support to facilities to develop or update their facility-specific infection prevention plans, and ensure gaps are mitigated
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Educator, Mentor, and Leader

- Educate staff (in LHD and facilities) on evidence-based IPC recommendations and guidelines
 - Provide Train the Trainer in-services
 - Assist with other trainings (e.g., outbreak, surveillance)
- Settings where IP support may be offered include SNF, assisted living facilities, dialysis centers, shelters, correctional facilities, etc.

Liaison and Collaborator

- Liaise and coordinate with CDPH HAI Program IP and other LHD IPs
 - Link to the experts in public health and professional organizations, for example, CDC, WHO, SHEA, or IDAC
 - Coordinate communication among facilities and other public health agencies regarding outbreaks and other infection prevention concerns
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HOW TO DEVELOP IP EXPERTISE

LHD IP Training



LHD IP Course, NEW 2021

- Online, self-paced, 14 hours CEU
- Covers key topics and disciplines for the new IP
- Includes modules on the role of the LHD IP, Core/Standard and Transmission-based precautions, cleaning and disinfection, reprocessing medical devices, preventing common HAI, antimicrobial resistance and stewardship, HAI surveillance

Course opens Monday 5.17.21

Other Education and Support



- HAI Program convening this LHD IP Support & Education Forum (to meet weekly)
- Forum webinars will provide additional education about IP resources, including tools for performing assessments and review of Quicksheets for common HAI and AR outbreaks
- Developing LHD IP job description template (describes types of activities for each essential function)

HAI Program LHD Resources



Public Health Partners

- AR/CDI Regional Collaboratives
- Healthcare Provider Influenza Vaccination Annual Report
- Infections associated with Stem Cell products
- Injection Safety
- HAI Investigation and Outbreak Quicksheets

[CDPH HAI Program Public Health Partners page](#)

(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/PublicHealthPartners.aspx)

RESOURCES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS

The below list of infection prevention resources are designed to assist local health departments (LHD) with infection prevention strategies in their health jurisdictions. Materials that are designated for skilled nursing facilities (SNF) or hospitals (ACH) may be used as reference or training tools by LHD. All of the below resources include links to materials, time estimates for trainings, and key information about each resource. You can also download the [resource list](#) in (PDF) format . For more information about these trainings, contact the HAI Program at HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov.

Resources

Adherence Monitoring

- > Antimicrobial Resistance
- > Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection
- > Hand Hygiene
- > Healthcare Facility IP Assessments
- > Infection Prevention Overview
- > Infection Prevention Overview (External Links)
- > Injection Safety
- > LHD Infection Preventionist (IP) Education & Support Forum
- > LHD Best Practices Webpage
- > LHD Webinars
- > Memory Care
- > Outbreaks
- > Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- > Resident / Patient Transfers

[HAI Program LHD Resources and Trainings webpage](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/LHD_Resources_and_Trainings.aspx)

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QUESTIONS?

Next Steps

- Attend the next LHD IP Forum webinar on **Thursday, May 13, 2021, 1-2PM**, to learn about the upcoming online course (registration process and content)
 - Register for CDPH LHD IP Online Course beginning **Monday, May 17, 2021**
 - Hold Thursdays, 1-2PM, for weekly LHD IP Forum webinars
 - Access resources on [HAI Program's LHD Resource Webpage](http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/LHD_Resources_and_Trainings.aspx):
(www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/HAI/Pages/LHD_Resources_and_Trainings.aspx)
 - Provide HAI Program with updates to your LHD IP contact information; contact Lynn.Janssen@cdph.ca.gov
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Questions?

Contact the HAI Program at HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov

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