



TN NHCN User Call

from the Tennessee Department of Health

TN

Monday June 16, 2025

Agenda

- **Respiratory Illness Update**
 - Ashley Gambrell, MPH, CPM
- **NHSN Update**
 - Vicky Lindsey, RN, CIC
- **FDA Recalls**
 - Vicky Lindsey, RN, CIC
- **Dialysis Simulation-Chattanooga**
 - Josh Key, RN
- **Injectable Drug Diversion Workshop**
 - Autumn Joanow, MPH
- **Screening for Patient Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Module 4**
 - Priscilla Pineda, MPH, CPH
- **Infection Prevention Office Hours**
 - Cari Simmons, MSN, RN, CIC

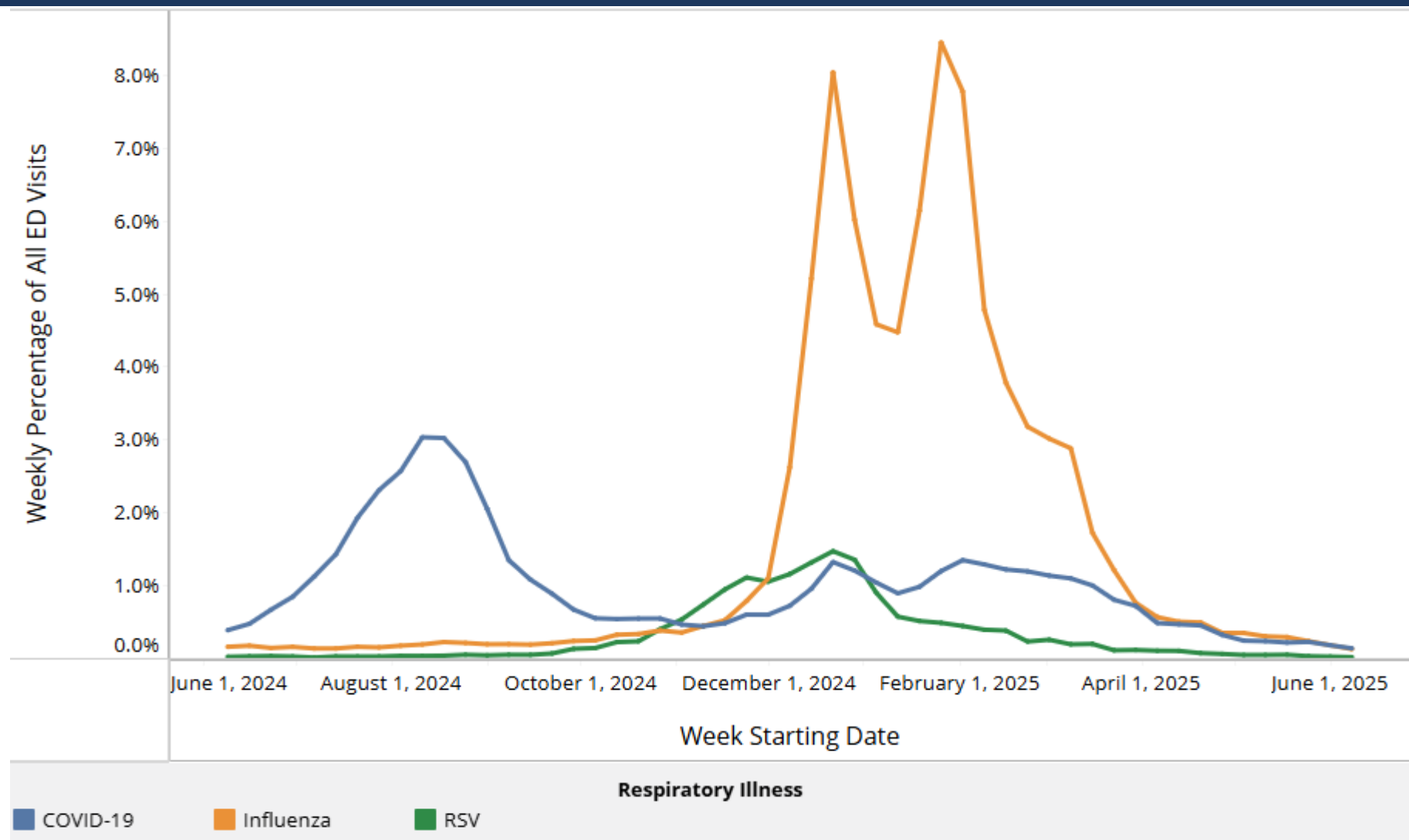
TDH NHSN Team

- **Ashley Gambrell, MPH**
 - **Senior NHSN Epidemiologist**
- **Vicky Lindsey, AAS, RN, CIC**
 - **Senior NHSN Public Health Nurse Consultant**
 - **Lead Technological Assistance**
 - **Infection Prevention and Control Specialist**
- **Marissa Turner, MPH**
 - **Assistant NHSN Epidemiologist**
- **Alex Kurutz, MPH**
 - **Dialysis Epidemiologist**
- **Jordan Morris, MPH**
 - **Assistant NHSN Epidemiologist**

Respiratory Illness Update



Syndromic Surveillance of ED Visits

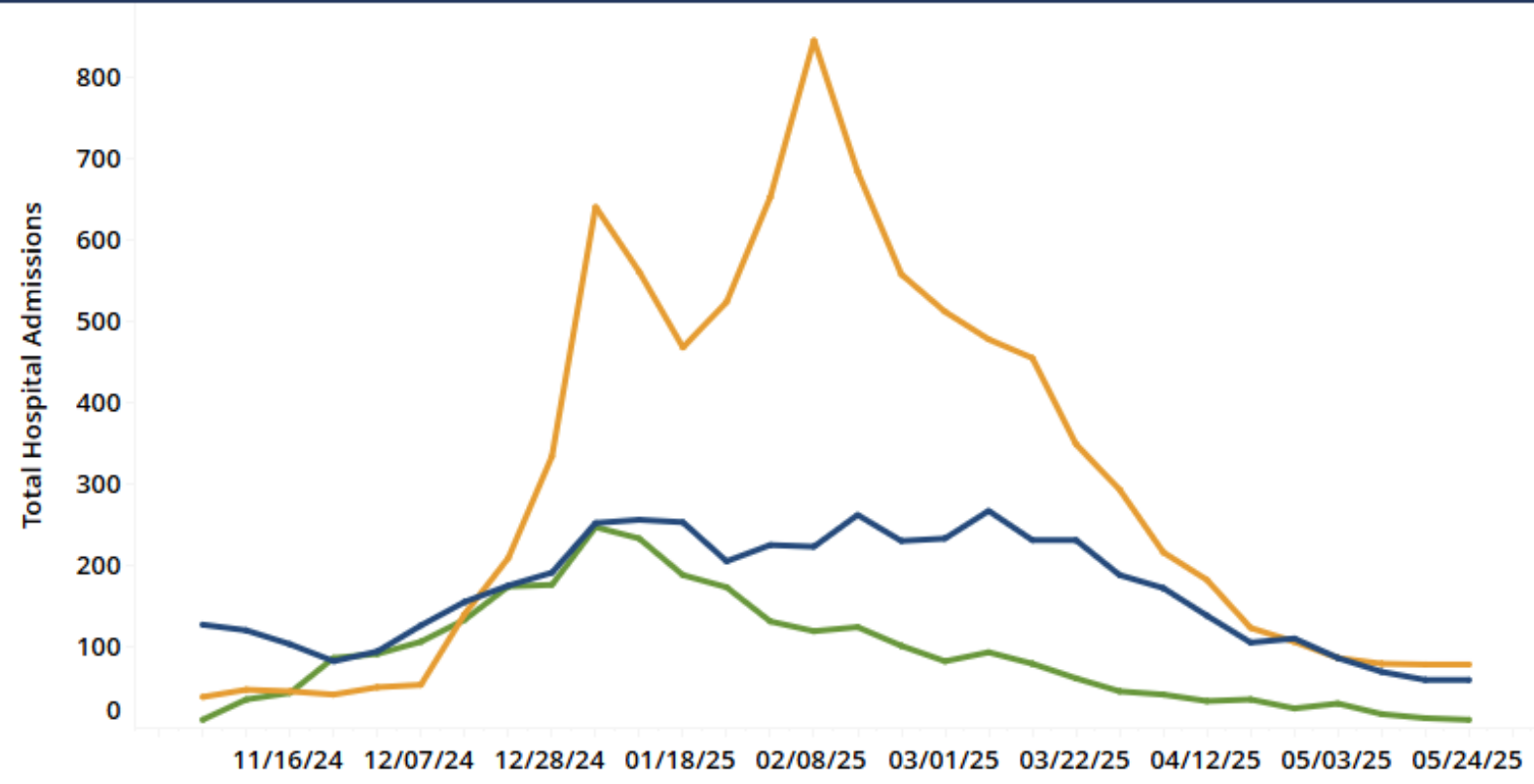


Statewide Weekly Hospital Admissions

Statewide Weekly Hospital Admissions with Respiratory Viral Illness
Date Updated: 5/24/2025



Total Admissions COVID-19	Total Admissions Influenza	Total Admissions RSV
58	77	9



Respiratory Illness

■ Total Admissions COVID-19 ■ Total Admissions Influenza ■ Total Admissions RSV



Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel

Overall respiratory illness activity in **Tennessee**

Very Low

Emergency department visits in **Tennessee**

COVID-19

Very Low
Decreasing ↘

Flu

Very Low
Decreasing ↘

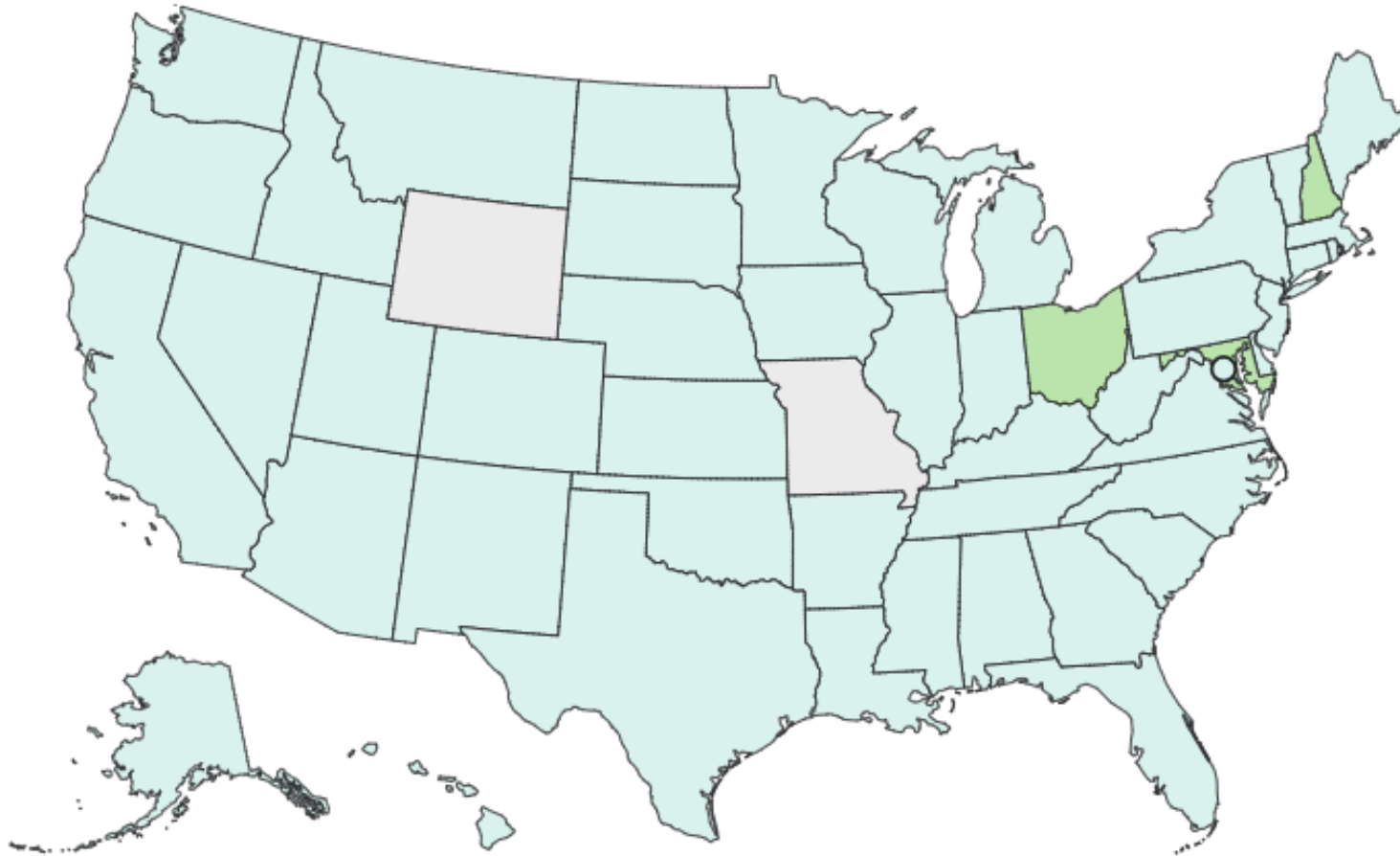
RSV

Very Low
Decreasing ↘

Bottom Line

Nationally,
**Respiratory
Illness**
causing people to
seek healthcare is

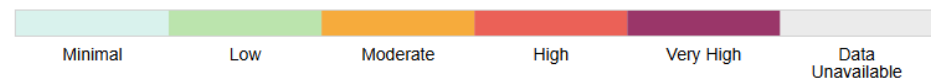
**VERY
LOW**



U.S. territories



Acute Respiratory Illness



Additional Resources

- **TDH Resources**

- [TDH Respiratory Viral Illness Webpage](#)
- [TDH Influenza Information](#)

- **CDC Resources**

- [Protect yourself from COVID-19, Flu, and RSV](#)
- [Respiratory Illnesses Data Channel](#)
- [Infection Control: Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 \(SARS-CoV-2\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#)



NHSN Updates

Vicky Lindsey, RN, CIC | Tennessee Department of Health | Communicable and Environmental
Diseases and Emergency Preparedness

New Annual Training in ServiceNow

- **NHSN has launched the Annual Training Community within ServiceNow, where you can engage with subject matter experts.**
- **This platform will serve as your go-to hub for all training-related information.**
 - **Training Week 1: Welcome - June 10 and June 12**
 - **No presentations during APIC Conference Week (June 16 - June 20)**
 - **Training Week 2 - June 24 and June 26**
 - **No presentations during July 4th Holiday Week (June 30 - July 4)**
 - **Training Week 3 - July 8 and July 10**
 - **Training Week 4 - July 15 and July 17**

New Component

- **Patient Safety Component titled Infectious Disease of Public Health Concern (IDPHC)**
- **Available for Optional Reporting with the NHSN Application.**
- **The IDPHC module provides NHSN users with the option to collect data on the incidence and prevalence of prioritized infectious diseases affecting adult and pediatric patients in Acute Care Hospitals.**
- **The module stratifies the data collection by patients with confirmed and unconfirmed disease status, as well as by patient population (adult patients and pediatric patients).**

IDPHC

- The intent of the IDPHC reporting is to support potential preparedness and response efforts related to high consequence infectious diseases and to better understand their impact on patients and healthcare systems.
- Within the NHSN application, the IDPHC module includes the Pathogens of High Consequence form. The drop-down list* in the form includes the following infectious diseases available for reporting:
 - Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever
 - Dengue virus
 - Ebola
 - Lassa
 - Measles
 - Mpox
 - Nipah virus
 - Toxigenic *Vibrio cholerae* – *confirmed disease only*

FDA MedWatch-Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim

- **Amneal Pharmaceutical is recalling three lots of Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim tablets USP, 400 mg/80 mg because the tablets may exhibit black spots on the tablet surface due to microbial contamination. The observance of black spots was reported in a product quality complaint.**
- **Oral products contaminated with *Aspergillus* may result in serious and life-threatening infections. The use of the defective product in patients with underlying immunosuppressive conditions increases the concern for serious infections.**

FDA MedWatch-Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim

- The recalled product was distributed nationwide to wholesalers/distributors between the dates of 12/4/2024 to 5/15/2025 only.
- This recall pertains only to the 400 mg/80 mg strength. No other Sulfamethoxazole/Trimethoprim tablets USP, 400 mg/80 mg lots are impacted.
- To date, Amneal Pharmaceuticals has received no reports of adverse events, illnesses or injuries related to this recall.
- Individuals with questions regarding this recall can contact Amneal Pharmaceuticals by phone: 833-582-0812; fax: 631-983-2595; email to: sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim-recall@amneal.com.

FDA MedWatch-Zicam

- **Church & Dwight Co. is recalling all lots within expiry of Zicam Cold Remedy Nasal Swabs, Zicam Nasal AllClear Swabs, and Orajel Baby Teething Swabs due to potential microbial contamination identified as fungi in cotton swab components.**
- **Swabs found to contain microbial contamination can potentially present a significant risk to the health and safety of consumers including serious and life-threatening blood infections in users whose nasal mucosa may be compromised due to inflammation and mechanical injuries. The risk is highest (potentially severe or life-threatening) among children and individuals with compromised immune systems or other underlying medical conditions.**

FDA MedWatch-Zicam

- **The recalled products were distributed nationwide in the United States and in Puerto Rico.**
- **This recall is limited exclusively to Zicam and Orajel swab products. All other Zicam and Orajel products, including Zicam RapidMelts, are not affected by this recall.**
- **To date, no serious adverse events associated with the affected product have reported.**

FDA MedWatch-Zicam

- Health care professionals and patients are encouraged to report adverse events or side effects related to the use of these products to the FDA's MedWatch Safety Information and Adverse Event Reporting Program:
 - Complete and [submit the report online](#).
- [Download form](#) or call 1-800-332-1088 to request a reporting form, then complete and return to the address on form, or submit by fax to 1-800-FDA-0178.




Dialysis Simulation- Chattanooga

Joshua Key, RN | Tennessee Department of Health | Communicable and Environmental Diseases and
Emergency Preparedness

Dialysis Simulation


- **Date:** Tuesday, August 12th
- **Location:** Chattanooga Public Library
Downtown Branch, 4th floor event space
1001 Broad St.
Chattanooga, TN 37042
- **Time:** 8:30 am – 4:00 pm EDT
 - Light breakfast and lunch provided
- Scan QR code to register!






Department of
Health

*The entire program is FREE +
7.25 CEUs offered + lunch
provided!*





Scan here to register!

Hemodialysis Infection Prevention Simulation

***Get 7.25 CEUs
at no cost!**

About the Simulation:

The purpose of this project is to provide CDC guidance on infection prevention covering topics such as CVC, AVF/AVG, environmental disinfection, patient safety, and MORE! Each session will have a classroom style presentation and hands on simulation experiences!

Details for Attendees:

- **Audience:** Hemodialysis Nurses, Technicians, and Infection Preventionists
- **Date:** Tuesday, August 12th, 2025
- **Location:** Chattanooga Public Library - Downtown Branch, 4th floor event space 1001 Broad Street Chattanooga, TN 37402
- **Time:** 8:30 am - 4:00 pm EDT, light breakfast, snacks and lunch provided

**For more information email:
HAI.Health@tn.gov**

*This activity has been submitted to Georgia Nurses Association for approval to award contact hours. Georgia Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation



Drug Diversion

Autumn Joanow, MPH | Tennessee Department of Health | Communicable and Environmental
Diseases and Emergency Preparedness



INJECTABLE DRUG DIVERSION WORKSHOP

The purpose of this event is to provide education and awareness to the risks associated with BBP transmission through tabletop exercise and lecture formats.



RSVP by July 21st

✓ Free Program

✓ Lunch provided

✓ Continuing education for this activity is pending. See the final announcement for details.

- July 31st, 2025, 9:00 AM-2:20 PM CDT, University of Memphis FedEx Institute of Technology (365 Fogelman Dr, Memphis, TN 38152)
- August 14th, 2025, 9:30 AM-2:50 PM EDT, Chattanooga Public Library Downtown Branch (1001 Broad St, Chattanooga, TN 37402)




Screening for Resistant Healthcare-Associated Infections Learning Series


Colonization Screening for Multidrug-Resistant Organisms
in Healthcare Facilities

APHL Learning Series

Module 1: Overview and Importance of Screening for Multidrug-Resistant Organisms, or MDROs



Module 2: Carbapenemase-producing Organisms Colonization Screening



Module 3: *Candida auris* Colonization Screening



Module 4: Packaging and Shipping for Colonization Screening

For full modules:

https://www.aphl.org/programs/infectious_disease/Pages/Colonization_Screening_for_Healthcare_Facilities.aspx

Module 4



Packaging and Shipping for Colonization Screening Video

Screening for Resistant
Healthcare-Associated Infections

Packaging and Shipping for Colonization Screening Video

Five Steps to Packaging and Shipping

1

Gather
Your
Materials

2

Prepare
Your Specimens
for Packaging

3

Prepare
the Shipping
Box

4

Package
the Shipping
Box With Your
Specimens

5

Prepare
to Ship

Disclosure

This video covers proper shipping to meet Department of Transportation and International Air Transport Association (DOT/IATA) regulations for shipment of colonization specimens.

Resources



Packaging and Shipping for Colonization Screening Video

Screening for Resistant Healthcare-Associated Infections

Thank you for your participation!

Screening for Resistant Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI): Colonization
Screening for Healthcare Facilities - APHL Learning Center

Resources



Questions?
Priscilla.Pineda@tn.gov
ARLN.Health@tn.gov

References

Association of Public Health Laboratories. (2024). *Colonization Screening for Multidrug-Resistant Organisms in Healthcare Facilities*[slideshow]. Packaging and Shipping for Colonization Screening Video



Infection Prevention & Control Office Hours

Donna Russell MPH, MBA, BSN, RN, CIC, CPH, CHEP
Infection Prevention and Education Programs Manager



Tennessee Department of Health Infection Prevention Program

Objectives

- Overview of the TN Department of Health Infection Prevention Program
- Discuss the role of the Infection Prevention Specialist
- Identify ways the Infection Prevention Specialist can assist and benefit healthcare facilities

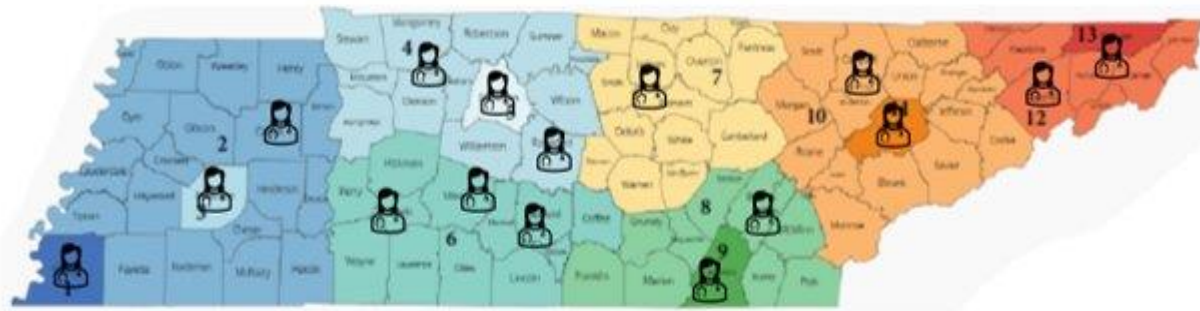
Infection Prevention Program

- Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program (HAI/AR)

“Committed to the elimination of preventable Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI), preventing the emergence and spread of multidrug-resistant organisms and emerging pathogens and optimization of antimicrobial use”

Infection Prevention Program

- 16 Infection Prevention Specialists
 - Certified in Infection Control (CIC)
 - Diverse experience and expertise
 - Emergency Medicine, Employee Health, Trauma & Critical Care, Med Surg, PAC, Public Health, NICU, Pediatrics, Labor & Delivery, Organ Transplantation, Surgery, Cariology, Home Health/Hospice, Dental Hygiene, Critical Care, Microbiology, Inpatient Rehab, LTCF, and Project Management
- Regionally Based
- NON-REGULATORY



TDH Infection Prevention Program

- Consultative
 - Email/ Phone Support
 - On-site Assessments
 - Recommendations based on best evidence-based practices
 - CDC
 - APIC
 - OSHA
 - EPA
 - FDA
 - and many more

Types of Facilities Served



- Acute Care/Critical Access Hospitals
- Nursing Homes
- Assisted Living Facilities
- Residential Homes for Aged
- Substance Abuse Treatment Facilities
- Outpatient Clinics/Providers
- Public Health Clinics
- Ambulatory Surgery Centers
- Group Homes
- Long Term Acute Care Hospitals
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (Ventilators)
- Dialysis Centers
- Regional/Local Health Departments
- Health Care Coalitions
- Rehab facilities
- Dental Clinics
- Podiatry



Assessment Areas



Infection Prevention Core

Hand Hygiene, Transmission-Based Precautions, Personal Protective Equipment



Environment of Care

Waste Management, Cleaning, Disinfecting, Water Management



Outbreak Response

Screening, Specimen Collection, Patient Placement



NHSN

Training, Data Feedback



Occupational Safety and Health

Bloodborne Pathogen Standard, Respiratory Protection Programs

Infection Control Assessment and Response Assessment (ICAR)



Developed through CDC to assist facilities evaluate internal infection control program



Intended to help assess IPC practices in acute care, long-term care, and outpatient settings



Can either look at the entire IP program or be a targeted focused assessment

Rapid Response Consult

Focused high-level assessment

Outbreaks: Respiratory
virus, Scabies

Identified infection
control breach



Phone, virtual or onsite

Additional Areas of Expertise



Education

Staff, EVS, New Infection Prevention



Survey Readiness

Contact information

Email:

HAI.HEALTH@tn.gov

Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30 CST

A State Map with regional IP Specialist and contact information will be sent out with meeting notes.

Questions?

Next NHSN User Call

- **Monday July 21, 2025**
 - 10am CT / 11am ET
- **NHSN Related**
 - Vicky.Lindsey@tn.gov
 - Ashley.Gambrell@tn.gov
- **AU/AR Module**
 - Christopher.Evans@tn.gov
- **Infection Prevention**
 - HAHealth@tn.gov