ISDH Infection Prevention Newsletter
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Infection Prevention Newsletter

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) is pleased to introduce a new newsletter on infection control and prevention. The newsletter is a collaboration between the ISDH's Epidemiology Resource Center and Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission. The goal of the newsletter is to provide information on infection prevention. The newsletter will particularly focus on healthcare associated infections. The ISDH recently received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The newsletter is included as a grant activity with the intent of increasing infection control and prevention capacity and competence.

The ISDH expects to publish the Infection Prevention Newsletter at least quarterly. The newsletter is an electronic newsletter delivered via email. The newsletter is free to subscribers. Individuals may subscribe online at www.in.gov/isdh/24526.htm.

World Hepatitis Day

Each year, World Hepatitis Day is celebrated on July 28 and aims to bring awareness to hepatitis. It is estimated that 400 million people have viral hepatitis, according to the World Health Organization.

"Most people who have hepatitis don't know that they are infected," said Deputy State Health Commissioner Jennifer Walthall, M.D., M.P.H. "Sadly, over one million people die from viral hepatitis every year world-wide."

Viral hepatitis is inflammation of the liver caused by a virus. The most common include hepatitis A, B and C.

Hepatitis A is spread through ingestion of contaminated food or water, while hepatitis B and C are both spread through contact with infected blood and bodily fluids. Acute hepatitis infections, especially Hepatitis A, can be life-threatening. The best way to prevent hepatitis A is through vaccination. The vaccine is recommended for all children, for travelers to certain countries and for people at high risk for infection with the virus.

In 2014 in Indiana, 20 cases of hepatitis A, 126 cases of hepatitis B, and 6,628 cases of hepatitis C were reported to the Indiana
State Department of Health. To view hepatitis C rates in your county, visit [http://www.in.gov/isdh/26680.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/26680.htm).

It is estimated that 4,000 people die each day from some form of viral hepatitis. On Tuesday, July 28, help raise awareness about hepatitis on Facebook and Twitter by posting and using the hashtag #4000voices. This hashtag represents the individuals who die every day from hepatitis.

"Hepatitis can lead to liver disease and liver cancer," said Dr. Walthall. "Knowing your status can help prevent serious problems and stop the spread of disease to others."

Viral hepatitis is preventable, and you can lower your risk by practicing good hygiene, practicing safe sex and avoid sharing injection drug equipment such as needles. You can also get vaccinated against hepatitis A and B.

Find out your risk for hepatitis by taking the hepatitis risk test at [http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/](http://www.cdc.gov/hepatitis/) and talk to your doctor about getting tested.

For more information about hepatitis and World Hepatitis Day, visit [http://worldhepatitisday.org/](http://worldhepatitisday.org/)

**CDC Infection Control and Prevention Grant**

In 2014, in response to the Ebola Virus Disease outbreak in Africa, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued grants to states to improve infrastructure and preparedness for a potential Ebola outbreak. Through those efforts, there were gaps identified in infection control and prevention.

In April 2015, the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) was awarded a CDC Domestic Ebola Supplement to Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Infectious Diseases (ELC) - Building and Strengthening Epidemiology, Laboratory, and Health Information Systems Capacity in State and Local Health Departments Grant (ELC Supplement Grant).

One purpose of the 2015 ELC Supplement Grant is to continue infrastructure improvements for Ebola prevention efforts. A second purpose is to extend new prevention measures, processes, and resources identified as part of the Ebola prevention efforts to healthcare associated infection prevention. The grant has three categories:

- healthcare infection control assessment and response;
- enhanced laboratory biosafety and biosecurity capacity; and
- global migration, border interventions and migrant health.

Each category includes specific projects. The following are some of the projects included in the grant activities:

- developing a State Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Plan
- implementing an Infection Prevention Advisory Group
- create an inventory of health care facilities to include infection control points of contact
- improving coordination between public health and all healthcare settings
- assessing readiness of Ebola-designated assessment hospitals within the state
- assessing outbreak reporting and response in healthcare facilities
- expanding infection control assessments in ambulatory surgical centers and nursing homes
- performing follow-up assessments to confirm and document mitigation of identified gaps and develop sustainable capacity to assess and address gaps
- enhancing surveillance capacity to improve situational awareness, describe emerging threats, and target on-site assessments to implement prevention programs
- provide training on antibiotic resistance
- develop a healthcare associated infection toolkit for long term care
- host an infection control and prevention summit
- provide a training program for health care facility infection prevention directors
- publish a quarterly newsletter on infection prevention
- update the ISDH web pages on infection prevention

The prevention of healthcare associated infections is an important health issue. The techniques and practices on which infection control and prevention are based form the backbone of infectious disease containment for pathogens that are otherwise amplified and accelerated in healthcare settings.
In 2009 CDC provided a grant to states related to healthcare associated infections. A part of that grant was to create a state plan for the prevention of healthcare associated infections. An Indiana Plan was published in December 2009.

A key component of the 2015 ELC Supplement Grant is the completion of an updated Indiana Plan for the Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infections (Indiana Plan). The purpose of the Indiana Plan is to extend new prevention measures, processes, and resources identified as part of the Ebola prevention efforts to a broader HAI prevention system. The Indiana Plan is intended to:

- Prevent and mitigate HAI more efficiently and effectively in Indiana
- Increase statewide focus on infectious diseases
- Improve coordination between healthcare providers on prevention of infectious diseases
- Conduct assessments of infection prevention capacity and gaps
- Identify needs and resources to expand state HAI subject matter expertise, laboratory testing and biosafety capability and traveler monitoring

The ISDH is assembling a HAI Advisory Group to make recommendations and contribute to the development of the plan. The Indiana Plan is to be completed by October 1, 2015. After completion of the plan, the HAI Advisory Group will continue to support and advise regarding activities within the plan.

**Infection Prevention Projects**

**HISTORY OF RECENT ISDH HAI PREVENTION PROJECTS**

**2007**

ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center addressed concerns related to Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Resources including information and tools were developed.

**June 2009**

The ISDH Division of Acute Care received a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to improve certification surveys at ambulatory surgery centers. The CMS Initiative was a response to an outbreak in Las Vegas. An Infection Control Worksheet was introduced as part of the survey process.

**Sept 2009**

The ISDH received a two-year grant from CDC to improve healthcare associated infection prevention. The grant included projects to create a state plan and provide a statewide healthcare associated infection prevention initiative.

**June 2010**

As part of the CDC grant, the ISDH created and staffed a HAI Epidemiologist position to improve state capacity for HAI surveillance and prevention efforts.

**October 2010**

The ISDH Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission hosted a Healthcare Quality Leadership Conference for health care facilities and organizations on the topic of healthcare associated infections.

**June 2011**

The ISDH completed and posted three online education modules on healthcare associated infections.

**2011**

ISDH adopted rules requiring hospitals to report via National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) the following infections:

- Central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI)
- Surgical site infections (SSI) for abdominal hysterectomies and colorectal
- Catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)

**August 2013**

The ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center established an Antibiotic Resistance Advisory Group. The group was established in response of increased concern related to carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE).

**2013**

The ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center updated MRSA information and tools. Also created information for *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI).
Indiana Regional Collaborative Project

The Indiana Regional Collaborative Project is an 18-month project coordinated by the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community. Seven long term care regional collaborative groups have been created throughout Indiana. Each collaborative group has a lead organization to facilitate and assist with projects for members from healthcare facilities within the geographic area. The members focus on the Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) process. The collaborative groups members will design, implement and evaluate two QAPI projects. One of QAPI projects will address healthcare associated infections.

The Collaborative Groups, representing over 125 different health care facilities, are working on performance improvement projects related to reducing rates of urinary tract infections, reducing incidents of pneumonia, reducing HAI related hospitalizations, and improving hand washing.

Indiana Advanced Education for Long Term Care Professionals Project

The Advanced Education for Long Term Care Professionals project is an 18-month project coordinated by the University of Indianapolis Center for Aging & Community. This project is aimed to provide advanced education to long term care professionals across Indiana. A "Certification of Completion" is given upon successful completion of a course. Courses included are courses in quality improvement, infection prevention, wound care and dementia. The infection prevention course began in April 2015 and concludes in August 2015. Courses are provided in South Bend and Indianapolis with 118 participants. The goal is to increase the number of long term care professionals with in-depth knowledge in infection control and prevention.

ISDH Infection Prevention Newsletter

The Infection Prevention Newsletter is published quarterly by the Indiana State Department of Health to provide information about the prevention of infections to health care professionals, public health officials, healthcare organizations, and communities. The newsletter is a collaboration between the ISDH's Epidemiology Resource Center and Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission.

Find the ISDH Epidemiology Resource Center on the web at www.in.gov/isdh/25154.htm. The Epidemiology Resource Center also publishes an Indiana Epidemiology Newsletter which is available at www.in.gov/isdh/23483.htm.

Find the ISDH Health Care Quality and Regulatory Commission on the web at www.in.gov/isdh/19041.htm. The Commission also publishes a Long Term Care Newsletter which is available at www.in.gov/isdh/24526.htm.

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