

PEN OFFICE HOURS

Infection Prevention focused calls for Hospitals – **March 27, 2024!**

Thank you to those who joined us! Please know that we are available for any questions or concerns. Double check that the next call scheduled for April 24, 2024 is on your calendar, you'll use the same zoom link every month! If you would like to submit a question or suggest a discussion topic for next month's discussion ahead of time, please email lfitzgerald@kfmc.org.

March Spotlight (with links to resources):

Linda Van Hoecke: [Competency-Based Education and Training, Auditing, Feedback & Reporting in the Healthcare Setting](#)

CDC COVID-19 vaccination recommendations: *(updated March 2024)*

Vaccine Schedules (COVID-19) *the information for 65 and older is found just above table 1, you do have to scroll down the page to see the paragraph with specific information for persons 65 and older. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#not-immunocompromised>

Stay Up-to-Date: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

NHSN

- Annual Training-March 18-22, 2024
 - The 2024 annual training event has concluded, however you may still access the recordings. If you already registered, you just need to log in to view the recordings. If you haven't registered yet, you will register to gain access. Click [here](#) to log on or register.
 - NHSN Annual Training-previous year recordings are also available here: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/training/annualtraining.html>
- NHSN Protocol Training Team Virtual Trainings- be on the lookout for an email for the April 17th webinar. If you do not receive an email, go to the communications page and the information should be posted closer to the event date. <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/commup/index.html>



- NSHN E-Newsletter is published quarterly (March, June, September, December), these do come by email or you may access them here: <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/newsletters/index.html>
- AUR Open Office Hours calls
 - Jan/Feb call is not recorded but slides are available here: [AUR Open Office Hours slides](#)
 - April 2, 2024, 1:00pm CST [register here](#)
 - May 8, 2024, 2:00pm CST [register here](#)
- Flu Summary Due May 15, 2024
 - Education: [Acute Care Facilities – October 2022 \[PDF – 2 MB\]](#)

Open Discussion follow up:

Where can I find TB data to do the annual TB risk assessment? For county specific information you may reach out to the TB program or your local health department:

- TB Program: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/530/Tuberculosis-TB-Program>
- Statistics/Kansas Health data: https://kshealthdata.kdhe.ks.gov/t/KDHE/views/InfectiousDiseaseCaseDashboardv5_30_2023/HomePage?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y

Anyone have Water Management Resources?

Resources:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/legionella/wmp/healthcare-facilities/water-mgmt-facilities.html>
- <https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/resources/patient-safety-topics/infection-prevention-and-hai/water-management-program-requirements-tip-sheet.pdf>
- https://apic.org/Resource_/TinyMceFileManager/Periodical images/CMS water management programs Winter 2017.pdf
- <https://www.jointcommission.org/-/media/tjc/documents/standards/r3-reports/r3-report-water-management-final nov1.pdf>
- <https://www.ashe.org/watermanagement>

Here is an additional resource to assess your comprehensive water management program:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/Water-Management-Checklist-P.pdf>

What influenza data sources do you use to determine when to stop requiring unvaccinated staff to mask? Some attendees responded that their facility mask requirement ends March 31 annually. Another recommendation was to utilize the [Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Program](#). You can see statewide and county specific data.



Is anyone using electrostatic sprayers for cleaning patient rooms on discharge? Several responses received that they are no longer using them or have not used them.

- Resources:
 - [Safety Precautions When Using Electrostatic Sprayers, Foggers, Misters, or Vaporizers for Surface Disinfection During the COVID-19 Pandemic-this page was updated 2/8/2024.](#)
 - [Evaluating Electrostatic Sprayers for Disinfectant Application \(EPA website\)](#)

Seeking recommendations for storage of extra toilet paper in the public restrooms.

Discussion of risk of splash/spray contamination and depending on size, type and location of storage areas, it may differ among facilities. Here is resource from ASHE: [Using the health care physical environment to prevent and control infection \(ashe.org\)](#)

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"In addition, water (often in the form of mist) from sources such as bathing or tub immersion, decorative water fountains, dialysis water, faucets (electronic or manual), heatercooler units and other medical devices, wastewater systems, ice machines, showers, sinks, toilets, wash basins, water-damaged materials and water-saving devices can transmit tiny water droplets containing pathogens"

"Ensuring that facilities for disposal of waste are readily accessible to patient rooms addresses the transport of waste long distances through hospital corridors; however, it does not address another concern, which is the contamination of surfaces in the patient bathroom or shared toilet room resulting from the flushing of waste in a toilet or a flush rim clinical sink, also known as a "hopper." Ample evidence suggests that this activity results in surface contamination. 521,522 An association between inhaled toilet aerosols and infection transmission has been proposed, however thus far, "...epidemiological studies have been unable to distinguish between risks of contact versus airborne transmission that may result from exposure to toilet flush aerosols."523 A third concern, also not addressed by direct access to a toilet room, is the potential for contamination of health care personnels' clothing when emptying and manually cleaning a soiled bedpan."



National APIC conference, San Antonio, June 3-5. More information can be found here:
<https://2024apic.eventscribe.net/>

The Kansas City APIC chapter is in the planning stages of a fall conference, will share when information becomes available!

APIC, Join a chapter! Benefits of membership: [Benefits of APIC membership](#).

Kansas Chapter contacts: <https://apic.org/member-services/chapters/chapter-map/?state=KS>

- APIC Chapter 009- Wichita Area
 - Meetings are typically 3rd Tuesday of the month, except for June and December (no meeting).
- APIC Chapter 031- Greater Kansas City
 - Meetings are typically 2nd Tuesday of the month 1p-3p
- APIC Chapter 115-Heart of America
 - Meetings are bi-monthly on the 1st Tuesday, odd months. Most meetings are hybrid-in person offering is rotated to different locations throughout the chapter.
 - Roundtable sharing zoom sessions are bi-monthly on the 1st Tuesday, even months

Thank you to our KDHE HAI-AR Section Infection Preventionists in assisting with providing requested resources from today's call!



Brenda Davis
Quality Improvement Consultant

bdavis@kfmc.org



Brenda Groves
Quality Improvement Consultant

bgroves@kfmc.org



Kim Byers
Quality Improvement Consultant

kbyers@kfmc.org



Loretta Fitzgerald
Quality Improvement Consultant

lfitzgerald@kfmc.org



Nadyne Hagmeier
Quality Improvement Consultant

nhagmeier@kfmc.org

