OPEN OFFICE HOURS

Infection Prevention focused calls for Hospitals – December 2024!

Great News, the Open Office Hours calls will continue for Kansas Infection Preventionists in 2025! We are excited to announce that the KDHE HAI/AR Section will be hosting monthly calls, starting January 22nd - 4th Wednesday monthly at 2:00 P.M. CT

Register here: Infection Prevention Open Office Hours.

December Spotlight

2025 Infection Prevention Conference

Thursday March 13 and Friday, March 14

Location: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS

Registration Fee & Site: $150 per attendee, https://registration.kha-net.org/

The Kansas Hospital Association and KDHE Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Section, in cooperation with members of the: Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Wichita, Kansas City and Heart of America Chapters have designed this conference for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other interested professionals.

This two-day conference will help prepare health care professionals to be facilitators and resources for surveillance, prevention and control of infections. The full conference brochure will be available in January 2025. Please contact the KHA Education Department (785) 233-7436 or hfinch@kha-net.org if you have any questions.

NHSN communications:

The below information highlights recent NHSN communications you may have already received via email *(12/2/2024, 12/4/2024, 12/10/2024, 12/17/2024)*.

2024 Education and Training Needs Assessment Survey

- This survey will remain open until December 31, 2024.
- Purpose: to improve the training and education resources available to users of the NHSN Patient Safety Component.
- The survey should take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

- Your feedback will help shape future training materials, tools, and educational activities that the NHSN team provides to support your work in delivering safe and high-quality care.
  - how well current training resources are meeting your needs,
  - where additional resources or support are needed,
  - how to make training more accessible, relevant, and useful to you.

Hospital Respiratory Data reports are now available in NHSN! NHSN users can modify and run NHSN Reports (Line Listing of Daily & Weekly Hospital Respiratory) within the HRD Module to meet HRD analytic needs. A Quick Reference Guide for Modifying and Running HRD Reports is available on the NHSN Hospital Respiratory Data webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/psc/hospital-respiratory-reporting.html

2025 version documents will be posted later this month to the website:
- Patient Safety Component Surveillance Protocols
- Patient Safety Components Tables of Instructions (TOI)
- Outpatient Procedure Component Surveillance Protocols
- Outpatient Procedure Component Tables of Instructions (TOI)
- Neonatal Component (Late-onset Sepsis/ Meningitis Module) Surveillance Protocol

These documents are to be used beginning January 1, 2025.
- Once posted, the current links for the 2024 documents will convert to the 2025 documents. NHSN encourages printing a hard copy of 2024 protocols for reference prior to the 2025 version postings. The full 2024 PSC, OPC, and Neonatal manuals will remain available on the NHSN home page under "Manuals & Protocols" section in the bottom left corner of home page: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/index.html.

Summaries of significant updates are available:
- Patient Safety Component: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/pscmanual/2025-psc-summary-508.pdf
- Outpatient Procedure Component: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/opc/2025-opc-summary-508.pdf
- Neonatal Component: https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/neonatal/losmen/2025-losmen-summary-508.pdf

Communication will be sent out when the 2025 protocols and documents are posted.

The 2024 Q4 newsletter announces the Final Reminder for NHSN AUR Module Registration and Submission Deadlines for the CY 2024 Medicare Promoting Interoperability Program within the Patient Safety Component. Please refer to page 2 of the newsletter for more information. Inside this issue you will find the following topics:

- Protocol Updates
- AUR Module Updates
- Rebaseline Information
- NHSN Education and Training Highlights
- Respiratory Virus Season Updates
- NHSN Dialysis Componen
- NHSN Helpdesk and other General NHSN Updates

AR Option Event Files: an issue has been identified with specimen collection dates of January 1, 2024, and forward.
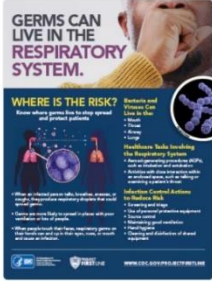
- **Issue:** When trying to submit 2024 AR Option Event Clinical Document Architecture (CDA) files for *Enterococcus* spp. isolates, the CDA files are failing upload and returning the error message "Drug 18929-0 is NOT Found in panel AntiP23_L." Drug 18929-0 refers to gentamicin high potency. The antimicrobial susceptibility testing results for gentamicin high potency are required to be included in the *Enterococcus* spp. files with specimen collection dates of January 1, 2024, and forward. *Enterococcus* spp. AR Option Event files for 2024 that include gentamicin high potency should pass and be accepted by NHSN. However, NHSN is rejecting the files. The issue occurred after the 13.0.0 NHSN release on December 14.
- **Resolution:** A fix for this issue is slated to be included in the 13.0.1 NHSN release tentatively scheduled for the end of January 2025.
- **Action:** For facilities participating in the Medicare Promoting Interoperability (PI) Program, CY 2024 Antimicrobial Use (AU) and AR data must be submitted to NHSN no later than January 31, 2025, in order to be included on the February 1, 2025, AU and AR submission status report. We recommend facilities complete the submission process for their 2024 AR Option Event data as previously planned, noting that their *Enterococcus* spp. files will fail due to this NHSN issue. As long as at least one AR Event from your facility is submitted successfully for the month (or in the case of indeed no events in the given month, checks the box for "Report No Events" for the month), the facility will receive a "YES" for the AR Event column in the AU and AR submission status report, which can be used as documentation for the PI Program.
- Facilities should plan to re-submit their affected 2024 files after the 13.0.1 NHSN release in January 2025. NHSN will send an email to all users and vendors when the fix is in place. Of note, AR Summary (denominator) files are not affected by this issue.

Respiratory Season Tips/Education:

It may be obvious that during the winter months respiratory illness spread increases but locating reliable resources for education & current community viral activity may not be so obvious. Next are a few great resources to keep at your fingertips!

The Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Program data landing page is the go to site for data of respiratory and other illnesses impacting our healthcare system. You can view statewide data or change it to view your local county data.

One page educational handout: Germs live in the Respiratory System Infographic

CDC Guidelines for respiratory viruses: https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/hcp/infection-control/index.html

Project Firstline COVID-19 (and other general) Infection Control Trainings
https://www.cdc.gov/project-firstline/hcp/training/covid-19/index.html

KDHE HAI/AR Section Updates:
- Interested in learning about the Surewash leasing (no cost) program to enhance your hand hygiene education & competency training? Have other questions or need assistance with other infection prevention resources? Reach out to the team!
  - Email: kdhe.haiar@ks.gov
  - Request form: https://forms.gle/nDsct1jh46TLMKX67

KFMC LTC team updates:
- Prior Open Office Hours resource summary documents can be accessed on the KFMC News & Events page, utilize the QR code at the top of the page or here's the direct link to the Open Office Hours resources: https://www.kfmc.org/2024-ip-ltc-facilities-and-communal-setting-providers-open-office-hours/

APIC, Join a chapter!
- **APIC Chapter 115-Heart of America:** for more information contact the chapter Secretary, Lacy Bowman (lharelson@kumc.edu)
- **APIC Chapter 031- Greater Kansas City:** for more visit their website: GKC website
- **APIC Chapter 009- Wichita Area:** for more information visit their website: Wichita Area

Wishing you a wonderful and healthy holiday season!

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