



TEXAS
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State
Health Services

Healthcare Safety Newsletter

Healthcare Safety Unit: Protecting Texans

Fall 2023

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Advisories, Alerts, and Recalls

- [Health Alert: Confirmed Case of Measles - August 2023 | Texas DSHS](#)
- [FDA Approves New Drug to Prevent RSV in Babies and Toddlers | FDA](#)
- [Dräger Medical Recalls Oxylog 3000 Plus Emergency and Transport Ventilators for Risk of Unexpected Depleted Battery and Ventilator Stop | FDA](#)
- [Dräger Recalls Carina Sub-Acute Care Ventilators for Contaminants in Airpath | FDA](#)

Antimicrobial Resistance Update

FDA approved Vowst, the first fecal microbiota product that is taken orally. [Vowst](#) is approved to prevent recurrences of *Clostridioides difficile* (*C. difficile*) infection (CDI) in individuals 18 years of age and older, following antibacterial treatment for recurrent CDI. CDI is one of the most common Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs) in the United States - associated with 15,000 to 30,000 deaths annually (April 26, 2023). Related: [Antimicrobial Resistance Information from FDA](#)

Antimicrobial Stewardship



Regional Committee Updates

Public Health Region 1 seeks a Director of Nursing to serve on its Antimicrobial Stewardship (AS) Advisory Committee. Interested candidates can apply [online](#) or email antibioticstewardship@dshs.texas.gov.

Antimicrobial Stewardship Facility Assessments



The Department of State Health Services (DSHS) AS team is currently providing AS Assessments to over 260 facilities statewide that did not meet all seven (7) of the CDC's AS Core Measures. Data from the National Healthcare Safety Network's (NHSN) Annual Hospital Survey was used to select facilities. The AS team will use the CDC's Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Tool to conduct the AS Assessments, aiming to enhance facilities' adherence to AS Core Measures through education and tools. For further details, contact: antibioticstewardship@dshs.texas.gov

CDC's Health Equity Principles



Using a health equity lens in communication planning, development, and dissemination means purposely looking at the potential positive and negative impacts of proposed messages on everyone to be inclusive, avoid bias and stigmatization, and effectively reach intended audiences, ideally with their input.

Health Equity Concept

Public health programs, policies, and practices are more effective when they recognize and reflect the diversity of the community they are trying to reach.

- Using language that is accessible and meaningful, and tailoring interventions based on the unique settings of different populations
- Emphasizing positive actions and highlighting community strengths and solutions
- Recognizing that certain members of your audience of focus may struggle to follow public health recommendations due to their cultural norms, beliefs, practices, or other reasons

Reference: [Using a Health Equity Lens | Gateway to Health Communication | CDC](#)

DSHS Audiovisual Library

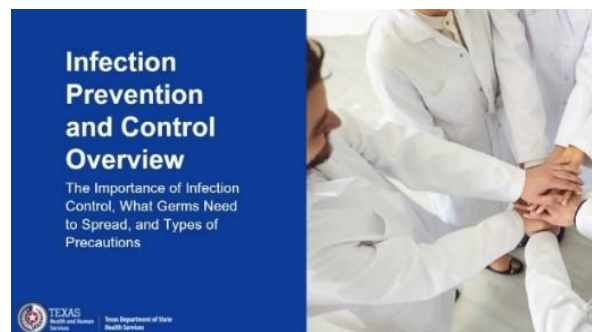
The Audiovisual Library at DSHS has free video streaming services beneficial to those involved in:

- Health education
- Safety on the job
- Safety and health training
- Emergency services

Register for these streaming services at [Streaming Video Registration Forms | Texas DSHS](#). To be eligible, you must be a Texas resident, 18 years or older, and complete the registration forms. Learn more about these resources by visiting [Audiovisual Library | Texas DSHS](#)

Infection Control Resources

Infection Prevention and Control Overview



The Healthcare Safety Unit's (HSU) Training Team developed a video that teaches about infection prevention and control (IPC) and types of precautions. To view the video, click the link or scan the QR code on your mobile device.



<https://www.canva.com/design/DAFiuR5x01c/GzLAutFodlqm8ChxmFFrkQ/watch>

Project Firstline Micro-Learns



Project Firstline's (PFLs) [micro-learns](#) are new resources that help healthcare workers recognize infection risks and take action to prevent the spread of germs, providing fast-training opportunities during team meetings or huddles. Current topics include:

- Blood Micro-Learn
- Rash Micro-Learn
- Cough and Congestion Micro-Learn

Texas Healthcare Safety Network 2.0

The new Texas Healthcare Safety Network (TxHSN) 2.0 is live! Enrollment continues for facility-designated users at general hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers (ASCs) who report state-mandated HAIs and Preventable Adverse Events (PAEs). TxHSN 2.0 will be the source for collecting PAE data, previewing facility reports, and submitting comments when data is finalized. The next deadline to enter and review data is October 30, 2023. If you are a designated contact in the old system or a new user needing login access, contact HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov or PAETexas@dshs.texas.gov.

Training Opportunities

DSHS is sponsoring the following training classes for Spring 2024:

- Essentials of IPC
- Certification in Infection Control (CIC) exam prep course with exam scholarship

Earn a spot in one of these two classes by watching PFL training videos! Use the [training tracker](#) to log the videos watched and email: HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov.

Course enrollment preference will be given to those who watch the most PFL videos. Notification of selected participants will be informed in the coming months.

Upcoming Events



Oct. 15 – 21: Healthcare Quality Week (HQW) is a dedicated time to acknowledge the progress made by healthcare and quality professionals toward improving patient outcomes and to prepare ourselves for the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. [Learn more](#) about the event.

Oct. 15 – 21: International Infection Prevention Week (IIPW) 2023 takes place! Learn how you can play an important role by visiting <https://infectionpreventionandyou.org/>

Word Search Activity



APIC[®]

Association for Professionals in
Infection Control and Epidemiology

Patient Safety Word Search

H F E P D U U I O Q D I Y E K R U X A I
N Q N Y A H G H F R C U R E T A C N T F
I G V L N T C L S U G U Q I U F B H K N
C J I Y C A C O V D A M D D L W I S S O
B T R L W K C L E A N H A N D S P A L I
E E O Z U H Q R G W J L D U H W R F F T
D G N O I T C E F N I S I D D N E E S A
S U M P A T I E N T S A F E T Y V I B N
E U E Y B L T J X E E R O Q N M E N U I
T J N A C N B K X T C K W A J Y N J E C
Q R T Z D Z H T T D A A F X Q U T E R C
G G J N H G A I Q E A I W Q I F I C A A
S M R E G F M E D I C A T I O N O T C V
A Z J U N O A O Y B A V M O Y O N I H D
T O V L S C I T O I B I T N A E D O T H
I S E F V K M G J V Q J S L W M W N L J
Y V I N V F P R E C A U T I O N S Q A Z
G A T I S L Y W B V Z Z D B S X U Y E T
P B A C T E R I A M T Q B V U Y Q K H U
G O I I X H A N D H Y G I E N E L V S T

Word Bank

ADVOCACY
ANTIBIOTICS
BACTERIA
CLEAN HANDS
DISINFECTION
ENVIRONMENT
GERMS
HAND HYGIENE
HEALTHCARE
INFLUENZA
MEDICATION
PATIENT SAFETY
PRECAUTIONS
PREVENTION
SAFE INJECTION
VACCINATION



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Healthcare Safety Unit:

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