



TEXAS  
Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State  
Health Services

# Healthcare Safety Newsletter

Healthcare Safety Unit: Protecting Texans

Fall 2025

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## Antimicrobial Use and Resistance

### Key Concepts and Strategies Webinar

Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Healthcare Safety Unit (HSU) Data Team recorded a webinar which introduces antimicrobial resistance (AR) and use, discusses the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC's\) Core Elements](#), and provides information on DSHS resources for antimicrobial programs. Enhance patient care and learn ways to combat antimicrobial resistance by viewing the recording here: [webinar](#).

### United States Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW) 2025

Celebrate the CDC's [USAAW](#). This event takes place annually, November 18th-24th, and raises awareness about AR (i.e., when germs develop the ability to defeat medicines designed to kill them). Help fight AR and show support by going purple for USAAW!

Participate by wearing purple or lighting up buildings and landmarks purple. Email photos to: [AntibioticStewardship@dshs.texas.gov](mailto:AntibioticStewardship@dshs.texas.gov) to be featured on the DSHS HSU website, during the [USAAW 2025 webinar on Wednesday, November 19th](#), and in the HSU newsletter.



# Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

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## Crafting Your Infection Prevention Future: Strategies for Career Advancement in Infection Prevention

APIC released a podcast on “Strategies for Career Advancement in Infection Prevention.” This episode discusses APIC’s Career Development and Advancement Guide, strategies to help build skills, and tips for becoming a standout candidate. Listen to learn strategies for a new role or grow in your current role: [#65 Crafting Your IP Future: Strategies for Career Advancement in Infection Prevention – 5-Second Rule](#).

## Department of State Health Services Audiovisual Library

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DSHS Audiovisual Library provides free access to video streaming for people doing work related to:

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

To access streaming services, Texas residents aged 18+ can register at [Streaming Video Registration Forms | Texas DSHS](#). For more information, visit: [Audiovisual Library | Texas DSHS](#).



### Video Highlight:

Physical Wellness: Feeling Your Best at Work and at Home

Location: Online [library catalog](#). Publisher: Training Network, 2024.

Feeling good physically improves every aspect of your life. This video explains what steps to take to feel better at work and at home.

## Preventable Adverse Events

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The internal data review report for preventable adverse events and healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) for January-June 2025 will be available for preliminary review by general hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers from September 15-30, 2025. Designated contacts at these facilities will be notified to log into the Texas Healthcare Safety Network (TxHSN) to review the data and submit corrections by September 30, 2025. Final facility-specific healthcare safety reports for the January-June 2025 data will be available in the TxHSN from October 15-31, 2025, for facility review before DSHS publishes the reports in December 2025.

## Infection Control Resources

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### Project Firstline Water Micro-Learn Training Resources



Knowing the risk of infections associated with water in healthcare settings is important for patient and resident safety. To increase awareness, CDC's Project Firstline created four water-focused [Infection Control Micro-Learns](#). These resources provide healthcare workers with the knowledge to know when and how water can spread germs and what actions they can take to reduce this risk. Each micro-learn connects infection control concepts to immediate, practical value. CDC recommends using micro-learns as a guide for infection control discussions, facilitating

conversations between groups of healthcare workers (e.g., pre-shift huddles, team meetings), led by a team member with infection control expertise.

Access water-focused infection control micro-learn resources here:

- [Water in Health Care Micro-Learn](#)
- [Sinks Micro-Learn](#)
- [Drains Micro-Learn](#)
- [Ice Micro-Learn](#)

### Infection Prevention in Long-Term Care Facilities

APIC and the American Association for Post-Acute Care Nursing developed three resources to assist healthcare professionals in skilled long-term care settings with infection prevention strategies.

Access the resources here:

- [Implementing the Use of Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Long-Term Care](#)
- [Infection Prevention Surveillance Plan Essentials for Long-Term Care](#)
- [Resources for Infection Preventionists in Long-Term Care Settings](#)

## Upcoming Events

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**ASHRM 2025 Annual Conference:** American Society for Healthcare Risk Management is hosting its annual ASHRM Conference for healthcare risk professionals in Charlotte, NC, on September 28-30, 2025. The virtual conference is available November 5-7, 2025, and on demand through December 8, 2025. Registration is [open now](#).

**USAAW 2025 Webinar:** HSU's Data Team and Houston Health Department are collaborating to present a virtual webinar to promote USAAW on November 19, 2025 at 11:00am-12:30pm. Registration is [open now](#).

## Staff Spotlight

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### Highlighting Staff Efforts and Contributions

HSU is proud to highlight staff representing the state and sharing knowledge with conference attendees across Texas.



#### **Thi Dang and Gretchen Rodriguez**

##### **HAI/AR Managers**

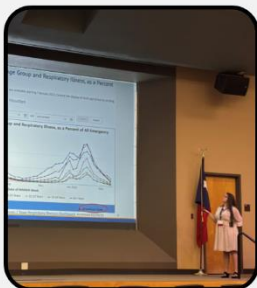
Presented “Measles Infection Control Recommendations and Lessons Learned” at the Texas Healthcare Safety Conference alongside Texas Epidemiologists, sharing a summary of Texas measles data trends, infection control recommendations, and common infection control gaps.



#### **Angel Guevara, Kourtney Lopez, and Karen Nunez**

##### **HAI Epidemiologists**

Presented “HAI-Lights from the Field” at the Texas Healthcare Safety Conference alongside Texas Epidemiologists, highlighting notable HAI investigations that occurred in Texas.



#### **Angie Benedetto**

##### **Epidemiologist**

Presented “Development of an Interactive Respiratory Illness Dashboard in Texas” at the Emerging and Acute Infectious Disease Unit Respiratory Diseases Conference, providing an overview and demonstration of the Texas Respiratory Illness Dashboard.