



TEXAS

Health and Human Services

Texas Department of State Health Services

Healthcare Safety Newsletter

Healthcare Safety Unit: Protecting Texans

Winter 2023/2024

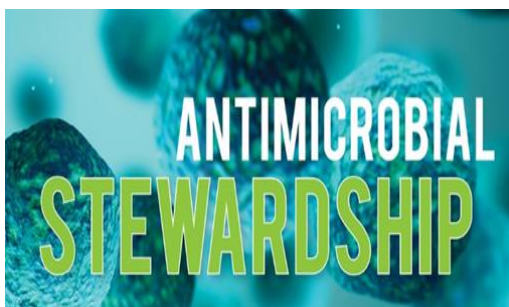
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Advisories, Alerts, and Recalls

- [Revised definition of suicide in Sentinel Event Policy | The Joint Commission](#)
- [Updated Sentinel Event Alert on surgical fire prevention | The Joint Commission](#)
- [Becton Dickinson \(BD\)/CareFusion Recalls Alaris Infusion Pumps | FDA](#)
- [Cardinal Health Issues Medical Device Recall for Nurse Assist Products Contained Within Kits/Trays | FDA](#)
- [Antiseizure Medicines Keppra, Keppra XR, Elepsia XR, Spritam \(levetiracetam\) and Onfi, Sympazan \(clobazam\): Drug Safety Communication - FDA Warns of Rare but Serious Drug Reaction | FDA](#)
- [Olympus Recalls Bronchofiberscopes and Bronchovideoscopes Because They Can Lead to Burns and Fire | FDA](#)

Antimicrobial Stewardship



Regional Committee Updates

Public Health Region 1 seeks a Director of Nursing to serve on its Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee (ASRAC). Interested candidates can fill out an application on our [Antimicrobial Stewardship \(AS\) website](#) or email antibioticstewardship@dshs.texas.gov.

The AS Team will be hosting ASRAC meetings via Microsoft Teams in the upcoming months. These meetings will be livestreamed, and open to the public. To join the mailing list, email antibioticstewardship@dshs.texas.gov. To share information with committee members, local health departments (LHDs) or other participants are encouraged to submit public comments through a form soon to be released on the [AS website](#) or via email at antibioticstewardship@dshs.texas.gov.

Department of State Health Services Audiovisual Library

The Audiovisual Library at the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) has free access to beneficial video streaming services 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 and above can register at [Streaming Video Registration Forms | Texas DSHS](#). For more information, visit [Audiovisual Library | Texas DSHS](#).

Infection Control in Healthcare: Safe Work Practices

[Library catalog](#) and Digital Video Disc (DVD). 14 min. 2014. Professional. (DV1445)

Safe practices have been developed by the CDC, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to help prevent and control the spread of infectious diseases. Introducing infection control policies, this program explains the importance of performing proper hand hygiene, how to properly perform the different hand hygiene methods and fingernail care, use of personal protective equipment (PPE), how to remove PPE properly, and infection control safe practices.

Preventing Bloodborne Infections- Bloodborne Viruses

[Library catalog](#) and Digital Video Disc (DVD). 16 min. 2020. Adult. (DV1466)

In the 1980s, the worldwide acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) epidemic focused new attention on infection control procedures, particularly as they relate to bloodborne pathogens such as the viruses that cause AIDS, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and hepatitis B and C. This program describes these dangerous bloodborne viruses and how they are transmitted.

Infection Control and Influenza

To prepare for this year's influenza season, the Healthcare Safety Unit (HSU) would like to share recommended infection control practices for influenza. In healthcare settings, strategies to mitigate and prevent influenza outbreaks include receiving the annual influenza vaccine, implementing respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette, and effective management of ill residents and healthcare personnel. Additional steps may be needed based on specific situations such as for hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients or other severely immunocompromised individuals.

In healthcare settings, when an influenza outbreak occurs it is important to follow the infection control practices below:



- Ensure all residents with suspected or confirmed influenza are on Standard and Droplet Precautions.
- Exclude ill healthcare personnel from work until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever.
- Conduct daily active surveillance until at least one week after the last laboratory-confirmed case.
- Administer influenza antiviral treatment and chemoprophylaxis to residents and healthcare personnel based on current recommendations.

For further guidance, please visit: [Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings | CDC](#).

If an influenza outbreak occurs in a healthcare facility, please report to the local or regional health department. A list of the Texas health departments can be retrieved on this webpage: [Texas Local Public Health Organizations | Texas DSHS](#).

Infection Control Resources

New Project Firstline Resources

CDC [Project Firstline](#) (PFL) created a variety of resources to promote infection control best practices during respiratory virus season, including an “Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses” section on their webpage ([Infection Control Actions for Respiratory Viruses | Project Firstline | Infection Control | CDC](#)) and [infographics](#) that outline infection control actions, [signs](#) encouraging masking, and a [one-pager](#) explaining the risk of germs in the respiratory system. Project Firstline also released two new [micro-learn](#) training topics to help educate healthcare workers on [what to do when you see a patient with a draining wound](#) and [on what to do when you see diarrhea](#).

Micro-learns provide a user guide, discussion guide, and hands-on job aid for easy sharing of important reminders with team members throughout the month. You can access the two new micro-learns, along with a growing list of other [infection control micro-Learn](#) trainings on the [Project Firstline website](#).

NEW!

Micro-Learn Training Available

What should you do when you see a patient with a **draining wound**?

The image shows a healthcare worker in a yellow protective gown and mask attending to a patient lying in a hospital bed. The patient has a draining wound on their arm.



The Power To Stop Infections. Together.



NEW!

Micro-Learn Training Available

What should you do **when you see diarrhea**?

The image shows a healthcare worker in a yellow protective gown and mask cleaning a hospital bed with a white sheet. There is a spill on the bed.



The Power To Stop Infections. Together.



Upcoming Events

Healthcare Safety Conference

The annual Texas Healthcare Safety Conference will be held July 16, 2024. The Conference shares new approaches to healthcare safety, expands infection prevention and control training, and provides updates on emerging public health threats and the state's healthcare safety initiatives. If you are interested in being a speaker, presenting a poster, or discussing a case study or improvement project, please contact PAETexas@dshs.texas.gov or HAITexas@dshs.texas.gov.

Well-being Check

Seasonal Affective Disorder



As the holidays end and the new year begins, many face seasonal affective disorder (SAD) in the colder, darker months. SAD is a seasonal depression type, with symptoms typically starting in late Fall and improving in Spring. Treatments studied for SAD include medication (antidepressants), psychotherapy (such as cognitive behavioral therapy), light therapy, and dietary supplements (such as vitamin D). For effective coping mechanisms, visit [Seasonal Affective Disorder | NCCIH \(nih.gov\)](https://www.nccih.nih.gov/health/seasonal-affective-disorder).

Employee Assistance Program

Access your [employee assistance program \(EAP\)](#) for confidential, 24/7/365 assistance for all of life's challenges. The EAP offers free assistance to individuals and families dealing with stress, addiction, change management, childcare, legal counsel, and financial difficulties.

			
<p>CDC Support for Public Health Workers and Health Professionals https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/public-health-workers/index.html</p>	<p>If you are having a mental health crisis, call or text 988 You may also chat on the website: https://988lifeline.org/</p>	<p>Support for issues with mental health, drugs, or alcohol https://www.samhsa.gov/find-support</p>	<p>1-800-799-SAFE (7233) TTY 1-800-787-3224 Chat: https://www.thehotline.org/# Text: Text "START" to 88788</p>