



Indiana State
Department of Health

LONG TERM CARE NEWSLETTER

ISDH Long Term Care Newsletter
Issue 2018-02
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CMS Update

Infection Prevention and Control Training for Nursing Home Staff

Healthcare associated infections (HAIs) can result in considerable harm or death for residents in long term care facilities as well as increased costs for the healthcare system. The revised Requirements for Participation effective November 28, 2016, outlined the specific components of an effective infection control program. These requirements were phased in over a 3 year period. Phase 3, which includes additional components including specialized training, is effective November 28, 2019.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are collaborating on the development of a free on-line training course in infection prevention and control for nursing home staff in the long term care setting. This course will be free of charge and available in the Spring of 2019. The training is expected to take approximately 16-20 hours and a certificate of completion will be provided after successful completion of an online exam.

Additional information is available: [QSO 18-15-NH Specialized Infection Prevention and Control Training for Nursing Home Staff in Long-Term Care Setting](#).

Clostridium difficile Infection (CDI) Project in Long Term Care

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), Division of Long Term Care, is one of ten state survey agencies to be part of a national collaborative project to promote the prevention and control of *Clostridium difficile* (CDI).

This project was developed through a partnership of the Association for Health Facility Survey Agencies (AHFSA), the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The goal is to provide long term care providers with an infection prevention and control resource list including CDI prevention tools. The educational resources and tools will assist with improving

hand hygiene, appropriate use of contact precautions/personal protective equipment (PPE) during care of residents with CDI, antibiotic stewardship, communication of CDI risk factors during transitions of care and environmental cleaning. The ISDH Division of Long Term Care will be monitoring data related to infection prevention and control practices and antibiotic stewardship programs (F880 and F881) as part of this project.

Attached is a [Letter of Introduction](#) to the project and the [Infection Prevention and Control Resource List](#). Additional information regarding this project will be available in May.

Please contact Nancy Adams, RN, nadams1@isdh.in.gov, 317-233-7119 or Brenda Buroker RN, bburoker@isdh.in.gov, 317-234-7340 with questions.

Hepatitis A - Disinfection for Food Facilities

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and several local health departments are investigating increasing hepatitis A activity in Indiana counties. Since January 1, 2018, 40 confirmed cases have been identified, compared to an average of 20 cases statewide each year.

Hepatitis A is a liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus. Highly contagious, hepatitis A is usually transmitted by the fecal-oral route, either through person-to-person contact or consumption of contaminated food, beverages, or ice. Contamination can occur when infected persons do not wash their hands properly after using the restroom and then touch other objects or food items.

Long term care facilities have been identified as facilities that prepare and provide food to large groups. Additional information regarding hepatitis A is available:

- [Hepatitis A - Letter of Notification](#)
- [Hepatitis A - Disinfection for Food Facilities](#)

Contact Debbie Beers, RN, Dbeers@isdh.in.gov or 317-233-7067 with questions.

Incident Reporting - Online Reporting System Nonoperational

The Division of Long Term Care Complaint & Incident Department has been working with the ISDH information technology staff to correct performance issues related to the Online Incident Reporting System (Gateway). The Complaint & Incident Department is aware of your concerns related to the timely reporting of incidents. Below are instructions for submission of incidents when the Gateway is nonoperational.

When the Gateway is nonoperational, the [Incident Reporting Form](#) must be completed and emailed to incidents@isdh.in.gov.

If the Gateway is nonoperational for an extended timeframe, the facility should check periodically on the status of the system and document this information on the reporting form. When the system is operational the facility MUST enter all incident reports and follow up reports into the Gateway. Copies of the emails related to the submitted Incident Reporting Form should also be attached as a document in the Gateway.