

Introduction

The CT Coalition Against HAIs (CCAH) was established in 2022 in collaboration with West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District, Farmington Valley Health District, and North Central District Health Department due to similar work on a NACCHO grant-funded project focusing on prevention of COVID, HAIs, and antibiotic resistant pathogens. The collaborative has a shared goal of educating local long-term care (LTC) facilities, rehabilitation facilities, assisted living centers, and group homes about infectious disease outbreak prevention and addressing questions, concerns, and other educational needs. Our core mission is to reduce negative outcomes associated with COVID and HAIs by reinforcing relationships between health departments, LTC facilities, community partners, and external health professional content experts through open and regular communication and resource sharing. The team hosts quarterly meetings to deliver timely and up to date education to standardize infection control efforts, showcase facilities, and share experiences.

The seeds for this toolkit were planted by staff from all three LHDs in an effort to assemble evidence-based resources in support of infection prevention and control. Our goal is to provide a go-to resource with the latest information as well as practical, ready-to-use training materials, templates, and products for facility staff.

If you have suggestions for topics or specific resources to add to the toolkit, please call or email your LHD.

If you have a success story to share, we'd love to hear from you!

Farmington Valley Health District	North Central District Health Department	West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District
Avon, Barkhamsted, Canton, Colebrook, East Granby, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, New Hartford and Simsbury	East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham, and Windsor Locks	Bloomfield, West Hartford
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Funding for this project is provided by the National Association of County and City Health Officials to address, prevent, and protect residents of high-risk facilities against healthcare-acquired infections including COVID-19, antibiotic resistant organisms, and beyond.

Connecticut Coalition Against Healthcare-Associated Infections

Resources for Nursing Homes, Long-Term Care, Assisted and Independent Living Facilities, and Group Homes

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Antibiograms

Connecticut does not currently publish any antibiograms. Here are some links about antibiograms including a nursing home toolkit:

Resource	Source	Type
What is an Antibiogram? https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/antibioticresistance/abx/antibiograms.pdf	Minnesota Dept of Health	Fact Sheet
Interpreting Antibiograms https://www.antibiogramdsm.org/interpretation	Iowa Collaborative	“How To” Narrative
Antibiogram Toolkit Includes background information, instructions on using free WHO-NET software, free Word/PDF/Excel charting templates: https://www.ahrq.gov/nhguide/toolkits/help-clinicians-choose-the-right-antibiotic/toolkit2-concise-antibiogram-toolkit.html	AHRQ*	Toolkit

*Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ)

Antibiotic Stewardship

Resource	Source	Type
Core Elements of Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Programs https://www.cdc.gov/antibiotic-use/healthcare/pdfs/hospital-core-elements-H.pdf	CDC	Guidance
Toolkit to Improve Antibiotic Use in Long-Term Care Geared towards developing and improving antibiotic stewardship programs, creating a safety culture around antibiotic prescribing, applying the Four Moments framework, and disseminating best practices for common infectious diseases: https://www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/long-term-care/index.html	AHRQ	Toolkit
Four Moments of Antibiotic Decision Making Four Moments Questions and implementation tools such as posters, pocket cards, and decision-making forms: https://www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/long-term-care/four-moments/index.html	AHRQ	Tools & Practices

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Implementation of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Use in Nursing Homes to Prevent Spread of Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs)</p> <p>Includes containment strategies and descriptions of precautions: https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html</p>	CDC	Guidance
<p>CDC Enhanced Barrier Precautions in LTC</p> <p>Guidance document followed by sign (English & Spanish): https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes-H.pdf https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/containment/spanish-enhanced-barrier-precautions-sign-P.pdf</p>	CDC	Guidance & Signage (English & Spanish)

Antibiotic Stewardship Training Resources

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Infection Preventionist Course</p> <p>Module 8 (30 minutes) of a 24-module online course focuses on antibiotic stewardship. You must create a TRAIN.org user account. CEUs are available. Enter course number WB4644 in the search field if the link doesn't work. Expires 2/9/25. https://www.train.org/connecticut/course/1107239/details</p>	CDC	Training
<p>Assessment and Management of Residents with a Suspected Skin or Soft Tissue Infection</p> <p>This webpage includes care cards as well as a 25-minute training video: https://www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/long-term-care/best-practices/cellulitis.html</p> <p>After viewing, viewers will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distinguish infectious cellulitis versus cellulitis mimics. • Discuss the diagnostic approach and empiric management of skin and soft tissue infections. • Discuss preventive and supportive measures for skin and soft tissue infections. 	AHRQ	Care Cards & Training Video

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Assessment and Management of Residents with a Suspected Urinary Tract Infection</p> <p>This webpage includes posters, care cards, a facilitation guide, a PowerPoint slidedeck, and fact sheets: https://www.ahrq.gov/antibiotic-use/long-term-care/best-practices/uti-assess.html</p> <p>After viewing or presenting this presentation, viewers will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explain the terms urinary tract infection (UTI) and asymptomatic bacteriuria. • Recognize the signs and symptoms of a suspected UTI that should be reported to and discussed by the health care team. • Describe empiric treatment options for UTIs. • Discuss opportunities for de-escalation of antibiotic therapy for UTIs after additional clinical data are available. 	AHRQ	Tools & Practices

C. auris Resources

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Information on <i>Candida auris</i></p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/index.html https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/tracking-c-auris.html</p>	CDC	General Information
<p><i>C. auris</i> Prevention & Control Strategies</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-infection-control.html</p>	CDC	Guidance

C. diff Resources

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Information on <i>C. difficile</i></p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/cdiff/clinicians/index.html</p>	CDC	General Information
<p>Comagine Health Quick Guide for <i>C. diff</i> Prevention</p> <p>Evidence-based Tools & Practices: https://comagine.org/resource/2077</p>	Comagine*	Tools & Practices

*Comagine is the Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) to Western States.

COVID-19 Resources

Resource	Source	Type
<p>COVID-19 Guidelines (May 2023) https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html</p>	CDC	Guidance
<p>Griffin Health Mobile Vaccines https://portal.ct.gov/vaccine-portal/DPH-van-clinics?language=en_US</p>	CT DPH	Website
<p>Long-term Care COVID-19 Resources (some in Spanish) Includes training resources on PPE, engineering controls, cleaning considerations in assisted living facilities: https://repository.netecweb.org/exhibits/show/ncov/longterm</p>	NETEC	Tools & Practices (some in Spanish)
<p>AMDA Post-acute Long-term Care COVID-19 Therapeutics Toolkit Includes standing orders template, patient/family materials, treatment algorithms, etc.: https://paltc.org/sites/default/files/Vax%20and%20Pax%20toolkit_11_15_FINAL.pdf</p>	AMDA	Toolkit
<p>Template for Staff Vaccination Exemption Form https://paltc.org/sites/default/files/Template%20for%20staff%20with%20vaccination%20exemptions%2013JAN2022.pdf</p>	AMDA	Form
<p>COVID-19 Vaccination Trackers for Residents & Staff https://comagine.org/article/two-trackers-can-assist-ltpac-facilities-monitor-covid-19-vaccination-statuses-residents?utm_source=cerkl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-03022023&cerkl_id=16888297&cerkl_ue=FrAtjyFgxENcq%2FaOJYyuTPJZxs2d9vljMG3e%2BCKSVrM%3D</p> <p>This tracker is a bit more comprehensive and generates graphs: https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/hcp/lc.html#vax</p>	Comagine & MN Health Dept	Vaccination Tracker
<p>Simple COVID-19 Vaccine & Boosters Flyer (English) for Residents' Families https://comagine.org/resource/2524?utm_source=cerkl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-03232023&cerkl_id=16958717&cerkl_ue=FrAtjyFgxENcq%2FaOJYyuTPJZxs2d9vljMG3e%2BCKSVrM%3D</p>	Comagine	Family Communication Flyer

Resource	Source	Type
Unbranded COVID-19 Booster Postcards & Letters for Families https://comagine.org/article/letters-and-postcards-aim-educate-importance-boosters-nursing-home-residents?utm_source=cerkl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-01192023&cerkl_id=16698107&cerkl_ue=FrAtjyFgxENcq%2FaOJYyuTPJZxs2d9vljMG3e%2BCKSVrM%3D	Comagine	Family Communication Templates
Unbranded COVID-19 Booster Letter Template for Residents https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/downloads/Sample-Letter-to-Residents.pdf	CDC	Resident Communication Template

Carbopenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)


Resource	Source	Type
Facility Guidance for Control of CRE Toolkit (Nov 2015) https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/cre/CRE-guidance-508.pdf	CDC	Toolkit

Disinfectant Dwell, Wet, or Contact Time

Resource	Source	Type
About COVID-19 Disinfectants Webpage where all disinfectant products with an Environmental Protection Agency Registration Number may be referenced online: https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/about-list-n-disinfectants-coronavirus-covid-19-0	EPA	Reference
“List N Tool” for look up by EPA REG. NO https://cfpub.epa.gov/wizards/disinfectants/	EPA	Reference
Clorox Bleach Dilution & Dwell Time Chart https://www.clorox.com/learn/bleach-dilution-ratio-chart/	Clorox	Guidance

Resource	Source	Type
CDC How to Read a Disinfectant Label Infographic (English) https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/HowToReadALabel-Infographic-508.pdf?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_425-DM89398&ACSTrackingLabel=Weekly%20Summary%3A%20Healthcare%20Quality%20and%20Worker%20Safety%20Information%20%E2%80%93%20September%2012%2C%202022&deliveryName=USCDC_425-DM89398	CDC	Guidance
Project Firstline Video Training (<7 minutes) on Contact Time (English) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCa7Gg1NUD4&t=48s	CDC	Training

Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection

Resource	Source	Type
Environmental Cleaning Program Improvement Toolkit A practical guide for implementing the best practices for environmental cleaning in healthcare facilities in resource-limited settings: Environmental Cleaning Program Improvement Toolkit: A Practical	CDC	Toolkit
Project Firstline Video Training (<4 minutes) on Cleaning vs. Disinfection (English)  Episode 16: Cleaning? Disinfection? What is the Difference?	CDC	Training

Fit Testing

Resource	Source	Type
Resources for N95 Fit Testing https://www.ctdol.state.ct.us/osh/n95trainingmaterial.htm	CT DOL	Training
Facial Hair and Fit Testing https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2016-05-09 https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/2003-03-07-0	OSHA	Guidance
No Waiver/release OSHA Interpretation https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/standardinterpretations/1984-01-18	OSHA	Guidance

Resource	Source	Type
Small Entity Compliance Guide Fit testing begins on page 31 which is page 33 of the PDF: https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/3384small-entity-for-respiratory-protection-standard-rev.pdf	OSHA	Guidance
LTC AL N95 Guidance https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/respiratory-protection-covid19-long-term-care.pdf	OSHA	Guidance

Flu Prevention

Resource	Source	Type
CDC Flu Prevention Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit Focuses on staff vaccination: https://www.cdc.gov/flu/toolkit/long-term-care/index.htm	CDC	Toolkit
Flu Vaccination Campaign Templates https://www.izsummitpartners.org/goal-setting-and-policy-decision-making-wksheet	IAC*	Templates

*Immunization Action Coalition

Free Continuing Education Resources

Resource	Source	Type
Enhanced Barrier Precautions Follow instructions in #5 of this PDF to access free webinar through 5/10/24 - Continuing Education credits available. Enhanced Barrier Precautions in Skilled Nursing facilities	VA Health Dept	Training
Role of Hand Hygiene in Limiting the Spread of MDROs Follow instructions in #5 of this PDF to access free webinar through 6/19/24 - Continuing Education credits available. https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/174/2022/05/Role-of-Hand-Hygiene-in-Limiting-the-Spread-of-MDROs-2.pdf	VA Health Dept	Training

General Infection Control Resources

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Council for Outbreak Response: HAI/AR (CORHA) Principles & Practices Guide</p> <p>“CORHA is a multidisciplinary collaboration of national associations and federal agencies working together since 2015 to improve methods to detect, investigate, control and prevent HAI/AR outbreaks.”</p> <p>https://www.corha.org/resources/corha-principles-and-practices-for-outbreak-response/</p>	CORHA	Reference
<p>HAI Surveillance & Dashboard Tool</p> <p>Free spreadsheet features line lists, data tables, and graphs for respiratory tract infections, urinary tract infections, gastrointestinal tract infections, skin and soft tissue infections, and multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO) surveillance.</p> <p>https://quality.allianthealth.org/media_library/ahs-hai-surveillance-dashboard-tool/</p>	Alliant Health	Tool
<p>Infection Prevention Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/longtermcare/prevention/index.html</p>	CDC	Tools & Practices
<p>Kansas Poster (Branded) - Standard Precautions</p> <p>Standard Precautions KDHE</p>	KS Health Dept	Poster
<p>“Wear Masks” Door Sign</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/pdf/Masks-Help-Protect-Everyone-Facility-Sign.pdf</p>	CDC	Signage
<p>“Cover Your Cough” Sign</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/protect/cdc_cough.pdf</p>	CDC	Signage
<p>Break the Chain of Infection Infographic</p> <p>https://infectionpreventionandyou.org/protect-your-patients/break-the-chain-of-infection/</p>		Communication Product
<p>Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based Precautions Flyer</p> <p>Two-page flyer from a facility in Michigan (branded):</p> <p>Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based Precautions</p>	NACCHO*	Communication Product

Resource	Source	Type
Clean Hands Count Campaign Promotional Materials (English & Spanish) Includes video, fact sheet, brochure, pocket cards, stickers, and posters: https://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene/campaign/promotional.html#anchor_1555101709	CDC	Communication Products (English & Spanish)
Infection Prevention & Control Resources in Alternate Languages PDF curated by Comagine Health, a healthcare consulting firm primarily serving Western states. Topics include Project Firstline, COVID-19, influenza, hand hygiene, masks, and ventilation: https://comagine.org/resource/1968	Comagine	Communication Products (Alternate Languages)

*National Association of County & City Health Officials

Group A Streptococcus

Resource	Source	Type
CDC Toolkit for Nursing Homes - Managing Outbreaks https://www.cdc.gov/groupastrep/outbreaks/lcfc/index.html	CDC	Toolkit

Hand Hygiene

Resource	Source	Type
Hand Hygiene Courses (May 2023) Education Courses Hand Hygiene CDC	CDC	Training
Hand Hygiene Competency Assessment Tool https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Programs/Community-Health/Project-Firstline/Hand-Hygiene-Competency.pdf	NACCHO*	Assessment Tool
Hand Hygiene Training Assessment Test https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Programs/Community-Health/Project-Firstline/Hand-Hygiene-Observer-Training-Competency-Test.pdf	NACCHO*	Assessment Tool

*National Association of County & City Health Officials

Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs)

Resource	Source	Type
Information On Pathogen Reduction And Decolonization Pathogen Reduction & Decolonization CDC	CDC	Reference
PPE Use to Prevent MDROs https://www.cdc.gov/hai/containment/PPE-Nursing-Homes.html	CDC	Reference
Nursing Home Decolonization Toolkit https://www.ucihealth.org/shield/nursing-home-decolonization-toolkit	UC Irvine	Toolkit

Norovirus Resources

Resource	Source	Type
List G Disinfectants List G: Antimicrobial Products Registered with EPA for Claims Against Norovirus (Feline calicivirus)	EPA	Reference
Norovirus Outbreak Management Guidelines https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/norovirus/index.html/Norovirus-Guideline-2011.pdf	CDC	Guidance
GI Outbreak Recommendations - CT Coalition Against HAI See Appendix A .	CCAH	Guidance
Stool Sample Collection https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/lab/specimen-collection.html See also Appendix B .	CDC CCAH	Guidance
Norovirus Fact Sheet https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/downloads/keyfacts.pdf	CDC	Fact Sheet
Long-Term Care Acute Gastroenteritis Surveillance Line List Long-Term Care (LTC) Acute Gastroenteritis Surveillance Line List	CDC	Template

Project Firstline Educational Materials

Resource	Source	Type
<p>Project Firstline Overview https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/index.html</p> <p>Project Firstline Video Training (English) For healthcare professionals and facility staff featuring Abby Carlson, MD from CDC. Videos range from 4-7 minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Episode 24: How Can COVID-19 Spread When You Don't ... ▶ Episode 21: Do We Really Have to Talk About Hand Hygie... ▶ Episode 23: What is Source Control? ▶ Episode 22: Why Does Contact Time Matter for Disinfection? ▶ Episode 16: Cleaning? Disinfection? What is the Difference? ▶ Episode 14: What is an N95? 	CDC	Training
<p>Recognize Infection Risks in Healthcare (English) Short training video (< 5 minutes): https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/videos/RecognizeRisks-LowRes.mp4</p>	CDC	Training
<p>Project Firstline & National Network of Public Health Institutes Interactive Learning Experiences Online training modules to prevent spread of infectious diseases <u>Includes each of the following topics:</u> Cleaning & Disinfection: What's the difference? How do Viruses Spread from Surfaces to People? Why Does Contact Time Matter for Disinfection? What is a Virus? What is Ventilation? What is Personal Protective Equipment? What is an N95 and How Do I Test the Seal? https://ipc.nnphi.org/learn/interactive</p>	CDC	Training
<p>Micro-learns & Training Toolkits in English & Spanish Mini training modules and more in-depth training toolkits on IPC topics: https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare/training.html?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_2104-DM106152&ACSTrackingLabel=NEW!%20CDC%20Micro-Learn%20Training%20Resources%20to%20Improve%20Infection%20Control%20&deliveryName=USCDC_2104-DM106152#anchor_46297</p>	CDC	Training & Toolkits

Resource	Source	Type
Germ Live in the Environment Posters PDF posters for water and wet surfaces, dry surfaces, dirt and dust, and devices: Germ Live in the Environment Project Firstline Infection Control CDC	CDC	Posters
Germ Live in and on the Body Posters PDF posters for skin, gut, respiratory system, and blood: https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/projectfirstline/healthcare/germs-body.html	CDC	Posters
Print Materials, Social Media Tools, Interactive Training Materials, and Trainer Toolkit Access Educational Materials from Project Firstline Infection Control CDC	CDC	Toolkit

PPE

Resource	Source	Type
Sequence for Putting on PPE Infographic https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/PPE-Sequence.pdf	CDC	Infographic
National Emerging Special Pathogen Training and Education Center (NETEC) Long-term Care PPE Education Slide Deck Topics include knowledge, utilization, administration, and logistics: https://repository.netecweb.org/exhibits/show/ncov/item/1617	NETEC	Training
PPE Audit Tool Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Audit Tool	NACCHO	Tool

See also [MDROs](#) and [Fit Testing](#) sections.

General Resources

Connecticut DPH Healthcare Associated Infections reporting requirements:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/HAI/Healthcare-Associated-Infections-Reporting-Requirements>

Free comprehensive online Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course: This CDC course consists of 24 modules that you can complete at your own pace online. Modules range from 30-90 minutes each. You must create a TRAIN.org user account. CEUs are available. Use course number WB4448 in the search field if the link doesn't work. Course expires 10/1/23.

https://www.train.org/cdctrain/training_plan/3814

CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN):

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/ltc/index.html>

APIC Toolkit YOU ARE NOT ALONE: Practical Tips and Strategies for the Isolated Infection Preventionist:

https://apic.org/apic-toolkit-for-rural-and-isolated-settings/?utm_source=cerkl&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter-06092022&cerkl_id=15861580&cerkl_ue=FrAtiyFgxENcq%2FaOJYyuTPJZxs2d9vljMG3e%2BCKSVrM%3D

AHRQ Unit Guide to Infection Prevention:

<https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Programs/Community-Health/Project-Firstline/Unit-Guide-to-Infection-Prevention-for-LTCFs.pdf>

APPENDIX A

GI OUTBREAK RECOMMENDATIONS

Developed by West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District with support from Farmington Valley Health District and North Central District Health Department

Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak Recommendations

For gastrointestinal illness outbreaks, including Norovirus in long-term care facilities.

Recommendations to Review
Transmission-based precautions, including contact precautions: https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/basics/transmission-based-precautions.html#anchor_1564057963
Donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE): https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/ppe/ppe-sequence.pdf
Norovirus guidelines for healthcare settings: https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/norovirus/index.html#anchor_1554725997
Norovirus facts for food workers: https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/downloads/foodhandlers.pdf

Outbreak Control Interventions
The facility and local public health staff should discuss and implement the interventions outlined below, as appropriate.
Initial Outbreak Steps
1. Facilities should contact the appropriate regulatory agency and local health department to report the suspected outbreak within 24 hours when there are 2 more care cases of similar illness .
2. Submit stool specimens as early as possible during a suspected outbreak to determine etiology of illness. <i>*Stool specimens should be collected and sent for testing for 3-5 currently symptomatic individuals (ideally from residents and staff, if symptoms are present among both groups). **Coordinate with local health department the submission of stool specimen in the event of an ill food worker.</i>
3. Implement daily active surveillance for symptoms among residents and staff.
4. Implement and update a daily line list to include location of residents, role of staff, initials, symptoms, symptom onset date, symptom resolved date, hospitalization, and any additional pertinent information for both staff and residents presenting with symptoms.
Infection Control
1. Place patients with gastroenteritis on contact precautions until symptom-free for at least 48 hours. <i>*Refer to resource on contact precautions.</i>
2. Provide training on hand hygiene and personal protective equipment (PPE) for contact precautions. For the duration of the outbreak, increase the frequency of hand hygiene audits and provide feedback to staff.
3. Utilize disposable serveware (i.e. plates, cups, napkins, silverware) for dining.
Social Distancing

Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak Recommendations

1. Have symptomatic residents remain in their rooms/apartments (i.e. restrict from activities and dining).
2. Limit group activities and dining. Serve all meals in resident rooms, especially in affected areas.
3. Limit visitation and exclude ill individuals from visiting the community via posted and digital communication.
Hand Hygiene and PPE
1. Actively promote adherence to hand hygiene among staff, residents, and visitors.
2. During gastrointestinal outbreaks, use soap and water to wash hands frequently (between tasks, after removing gloves, after having contact with a resident, before eating or preparing food, after using the restroom, and after caring for or cleaning up after a symptomatic individual). <i>*Alcohol-based hand sanitizer should not be utilized as a primary method of hand hygiene during gastroenteritis outbreaks, as it is not effective against Norovirus, a common gastroenteritis-causing pathogen.</i>
3. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) (i.e. gowns and gloves) when entering affected patient care areas and remove properly to avoid contaminating clothing and surrounding area. <i>*Refer to resource on donning and doffing PPE.</i>
Transfers and Admissions
1. When transferring ill residents to the hospital, if needed, notify emergency medical responders to ensure adherence to contact precautions.
2. Notify new admissions and families of the presence of a gastrointestinal outbreak.
Cleaning and Disinfection
1. Utilize a bleach solution with a concentration of 1,000 to 5,000 ppm (5 to 25 tablespoons of household bleach [5% to 8%] per gallon of water to clean restrooms, in the kitchen (substitute for quat disinfectant for the extent of the outbreak), and on hard, non-porous surfaces in common areas. <i>*Allow the bleach solution to remain wet on a surface for 5 minutes to disinfect.</i>
2. Perform routine cleaning and disinfection of high-traffic areas and frequently touched surfaces (i.e. toilets, faucets, light switches, door handles, telephones, handrails, etc.)
3. Increase the frequency of cleaning and disinfection throughout the duration of the outbreak.
Staff Recommendations
1. Reinforce importance of reporting symptoms and staying home when ill.
2. Exclude symptomatic/ill staff from work for a minimum of 48 hours after the resolution of symptoms. <i>*Upon return to work, reinforce the importance of hand hygiene.</i> <i>**Use gloves where appropriate (i.e. when preparing food or caring for a resident).</i> <i>***Change gloves frequently. Wash hands between sets of gloves.</i>
3. Contact your local health department immediately if a food worker reports illness.

Gastrointestinal Illness Outbreak Recommendations

Additional Resources
Norovirus key facts: https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/downloads/keyfacts.pdf
Norovirus in healthcare facilities fact sheet: https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/norovirus/229110-ANoroCaseFactSheet508.pdf
Norovirus poster cleanup: https://waterandhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/norovirus-poster-cleanup_8.5x11_Color.pdf
Protect yourself from Norovirus poster: https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/images/info-norovirus-poster.png
Bleach concentrations for gastroenteritis outbreaks: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0tmPQ67k3NVEt1OVNXVUhmLTQ/view?resourcekey=0-Pe50_yOi46MDRghqK0s-hg
Enteric bleach dilution calculator tool: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7npKf07QiaAVFduUDhLdnZPejY2M2dBWFNKU0lrWU10NlpV/view?resourcekey=0-k-7g8_jkVqBDp5G_02XQVw
CDC Norovirus webpage: https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/index.html

Local Health Department Contact Information
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North Central District Health Department 31 North Main Street Enfield, CT 06082 Phone: 860-745-0383 Fax: 860-745-3188 Serving the towns of: East Windsor, Ellington, Enfield, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon, Windham, and Windsor Locks
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APPENDIX B

HELPFUL TIPS: COLLECTING STOOL SAMPLES

HELPFUL TIPS: COLLECTING STOOL SAMPLES

Collecting stool samples for parasite testing:

<https://www.cdc.gov/dpdx/diagnosticprocedures/stool/specimencoll.html>

Collecting samples for norovirus:

<https://www.cdc.gov/norovirus/lab/specimen-collection.html>

Tips and Reminders:

- Collect samples in the early phase of illness (ideally no more than 48 hours after first symptoms).
 - Samples may be collected from an individual experiencing or who recently experienced symptoms. They do not need to be experiencing diarrhea at time of collection.
- Consult with your LHD or DPH regarding how many samples to collect.
- Rectal swabs are considered inferior to stool samples.
- Before collection, assemble supplies and label container with patient name and date of birth.
- If you don't have a mini spatula, use a sterile tongue depressor.
- Be aware of what medications the patient is taking that could interfere with results interpretation: antacids, kaolin, mineral oil and other oily materials, non-absorbable antidiarrheal preparations, barium or bismuth (7-10 days needed for clearance of effects), antimicrobial agents (2-3 weeks), and gallbladder dyes (3 weeks).
- Ensure that the specimen is mixed well with the preservative. Formed stool needs to be well broken up.
- Avoid contamination of the sample with urine.
- Refrigerate the sample.

Tips from CT DPH:

- Name / DOB must match specimen container.
- Date and Time of Collection must match specimen container.
- Specimen vials must have 2 identifiers (Name and DOB or the sample will be rejected).
- Adding note on bottom right such as "Clearance for Return to Work" or "Outbreak" helps the lab.
- Include your lab profile number at top left of page.

