



Infection Prevention Assessments: Maximizing Your On-Site Impact

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Project Firstline is a national collaborative led by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to provide infection control training and education to frontline healthcare workers and public health personnel. National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is proud to partner with Project Firstline to host the NACCHO Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Summit (Summit), as supported through CDC Grant # 6NU380T000306-03-05. CDC is an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). This presentation is being hosted as part of the Summit; the contents of this presentation and Summit do not necessarily represent the policies of CDC or HHS and should not be considered an endorsement by the Federal Government.



Objectives

1. Describe the key goals of an infection control assessment and response (ICAR) program for healthcare facilities and local health departments.
2. Design an ICAR workflow that maximizes your impact while on-site.
3. Propose local health department infection prevention activities based on ICAR results.

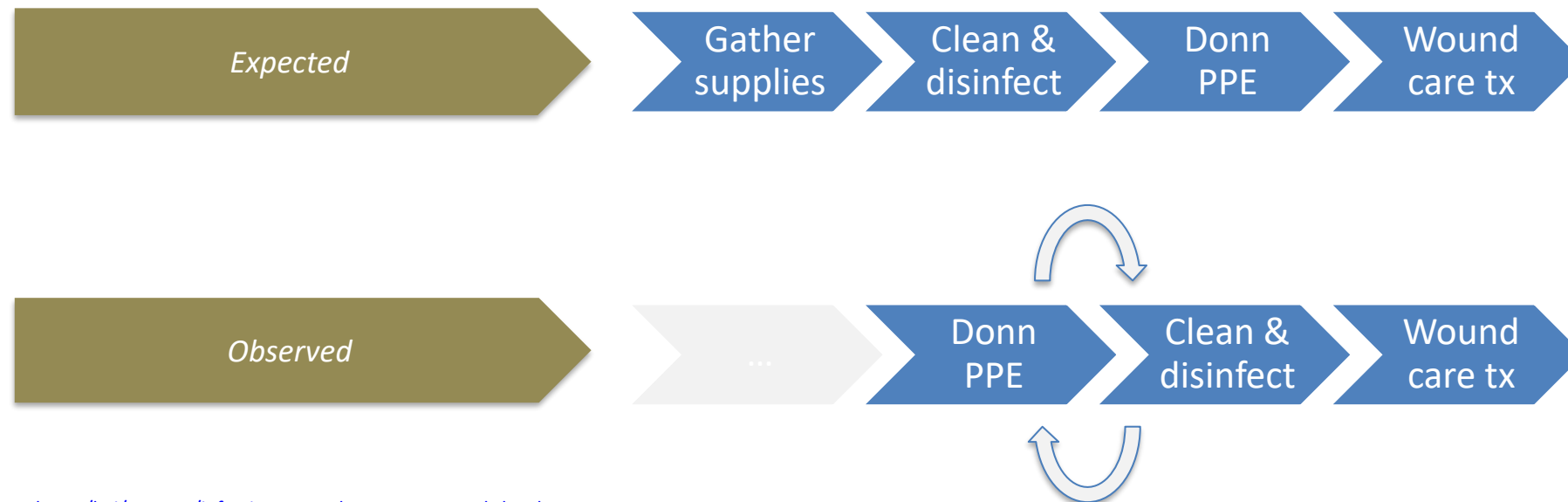


Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Programs



What is an ICAR? What is the Goal?

- Tool for assessing a healthcare facility's infection prevention and control (IPC) practices; a gap analysis



1. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>

What are the benefits of an ICAR?

For Healthcare Facilities (HCFs)

- No-cost, comprehensive IPC assessment
- Relationship building with LHDs
- Improve IPC processes
- Improve IPC outcomes
- Recognition from LHD
 - Certificate of completion
 - Honorary program

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For Local Health Departments (LHDs)

- Data
 - How are HCFs combating infections?
 - What challenges are HCFs facing?
 - Direct observations
- Relationship building with HCFs
- Target educational programs

Los Angeles County (LAC) Department of Public Health (DPH) ICARs in Long-Term Care Facilities

Long-Term Care Facilities

- < 350 Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
- ~ 3,000 Community Care Facilities (CCFs)
- Excluding Long Beach and Pasadena facilities

COVID-19 impact



Elements of an ICAR

Before	During	After
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schedule • Prepare internally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey • Policy review • Direct observations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write up assessment • Provide assessment and recommendations • Potential follow up

Click on each Module below to open the tool in a fillable PDF document.

- [Module 1 – Training, Audits, Feedback](#) [PDF – 5 pages]
- [Module 2 – Hand Hygiene](#) [PDF – 7 pages]
- [Module 3 – Transmission-Based Precautions \(TBP\)](#) [PDF – 30 pages]
- [Module 4 – Environmental Services \(EVS\)](#) [PDF – 18 pages]
- [Module 5 – High-level Disinfection and Sterilization](#) [PDF – 13 pages]
- [Module 6 – Injection Safety](#) [PDF – 11 pages]
- [Module 7 – Point of Care \(POC\) Blood Testing](#) [PDF – 8 pages]
- [Module 8 – Wound Care](#) [PDF – 9 pages]
- [Module 9 – Healthcare Laundry](#) [PDF – 9 pages]
- [Module 10 – Antibiotic Stewardship](#) [PDF – 5 pages]
- [Module 11 – Water Exposure](#) [PDF – 18 pages]

Click on each link below to open the form in a fillable PDF document.

- [Observation Form – Hand Hygiene](#) [PDF – 3 pages]
- [Observation Form – Transmission-Based Precautions \(TBP\)](#) [PDF – 16 pages]
- [Observation Form – Environmental Services \(EVS\)](#) [PDF – 15 pages]
- [Observation Form – High-level Disinfection and Sterilization](#) [PDF – 10 pages]
- [Observation Form – Injection Safety](#) [PDF – 10 pages]
- [Observation Form – Point of Care \(POC\) Blood Testing](#) [PDF – 7 pages]
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1. <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>



Noteworthy Perspective

- Stress
- Time



How can we accomplish the goals of an ICAR

Without taking too much of the HCF's time?

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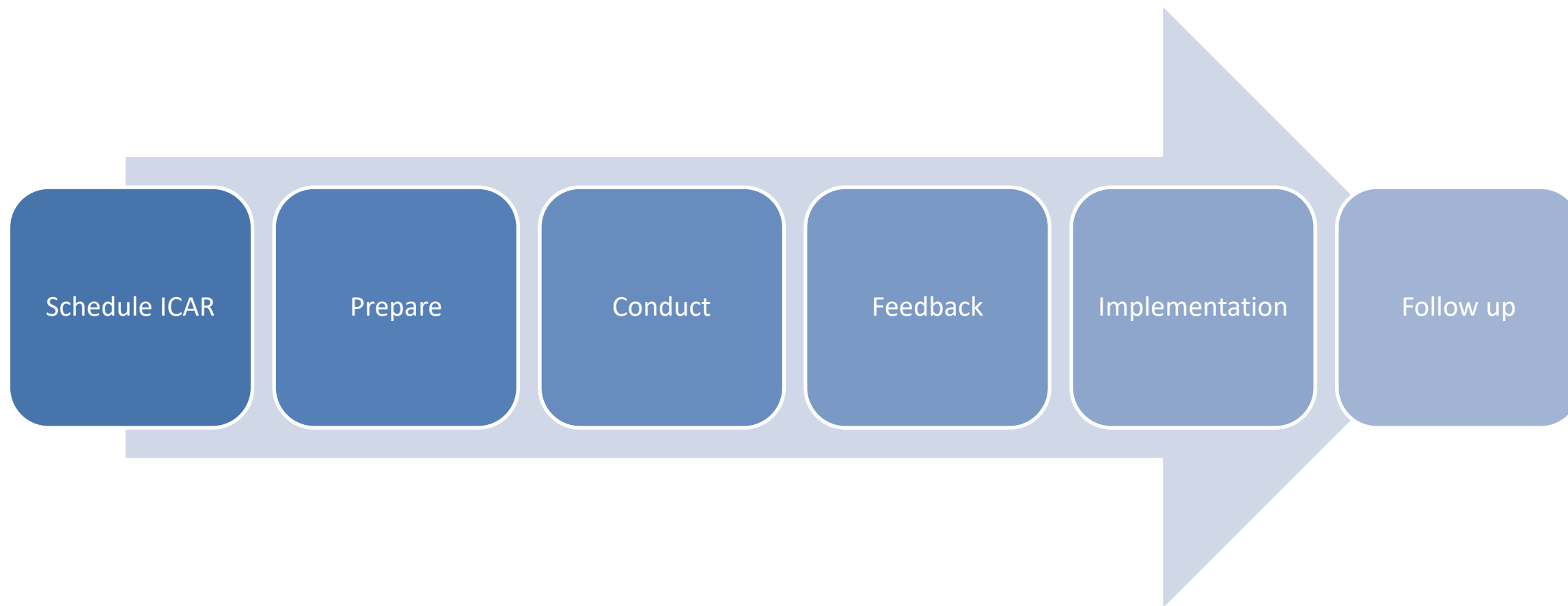
Without straining their capacity to retain information?



ICAR Workflow



LAC DPH ICAR Workflow for Long-Term Care Facilities



Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

1. Schedule the ICAR

Identify LTCFs in need of assistance

- Lengthy or significant outbreak
- Unresponsive to outreach

Allow LTCFs to express interest

- Interest form on our websites
- Highlighted in other forms of outreach

Establish an internal scheduling system

- Dedicated days of the week with staff availability
- Shared site visit calendar (MS Teams)

About the SNF ICAR Program

The Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Program is a collaboration between the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LAC DPH) and LAC SNFs to work towards the common goal of improving safety and quality of care for residents, staff, and visitors. The LAC DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program (ACDC) Long Term Care team assesses a facility's Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices following a standardized gap assessment based off the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s ICAR tool in order to provide feedback to the facility on how they can improve their IPC practices.

This program aims to assist facilities with implementing IPC best practices and improving IPC programs. Our purpose is to serve one of the most vulnerable populations (e.g., nursing home residents) by serving their providers – the SNFs.

Please note: We are not inspectors or surveyors, so this is not a licensing or certification visit, but an opportunity to share information and provide consultation.

All LAC SNFs (excluding Long Beach and Pasadena) are eligible to participate in the SNF ICAR Program.

Sign Up

Sign-up is now available. Please [click here](#) to sign-up.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

2. Prepare

Complete set modules over the phone with LTCF

- E.g., demographics, training/auditing/feedback

Internal pre-visit meeting

- Discuss LTCF's concerns and takeaways from modules completed over the phone
- Discuss logistics (e.g., parking, printing)
- Assign tasks:
 - IP to conduct survey and tour
 - Nurse consultant(s) to conduct direct observations

Resizing font icons | [Survey Queue](#)

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES Public Health

Merged ICAR Tool

[See instructions for use.](#)

Facility Demographics

Some fields to be completed by the facility prior to the on-site visit.

Facility Point of Contact	
Name: <input type="text"/>	Email: <input type="text"/>
Title: <input type="text"/>	Phone Number: <input type="text"/>

LAC DPH personnel completing this assessment
** must provide value*

Date of Assessment Today M-D-Y
** must provide value*

Facility Name and CDPH Facility ID

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

3. Conduct the ICAR (2-3 hours)

Pre-ICAR conference

- Meet with LTCF leadership
- LTCF and LHD introductions, ICAR overview

Divide into teams

- LHD IP conducts survey and interview
- Nurse consultant(s) complete direct observations
- Both teams provide direct intervention to LTCF staff

Discuss findings and recommendations with LTCF IP

- IP to IP discussion

Post-ICAR conference

- Higher level overview to LTCF leadership

12:23
◀ Outlook

Module 9: Standard and Transmission-based Precaution

Acronyms on this page:

- TBP: transmission-based precautions

Resources:

- [LAC DPH TBP Signage](#)
- [LAC DPH Infectious Organism Inter-facility Transfer Form](#)
- CDPH, HCAI, and Cal-OSHA's joint guidance: "[Interim Guidance for Ventilator Environments](#)"
- [CDC ICAR Version](#)
- [CDC Appendix A: Guideline for Isolation Precautions: Preventing Transmission in Healthcare Settings \(2007\)](#)

Which types of TBP does the facility use?

Contact

Droplet

Airborne

Enhanced Standard Precautions

Novel Respiratory Precautions

Unknown or unsure

Select all that apply

Describe how the facility identifies when admissions or re-admissions need

Requesting sending facility (hospital) to complete an infectious organism intake form upon arrival at the facility

Reviewing all pertinent point-of-care and laboratory results prior to resident's admission

Nurse to nurse report/verbal communication

Following physician/clinical provider orders

Following CDC's Appendix A: Guideline for Isolation Precautions

Other

None

Select all that apply

Describe how the facility identifies when currently admitted residents need

Reviewing all pertinent point-of-care and laboratory results in a timely way

Ongoing surveillance of symptoms and vital signs

Following physician/clinical provider orders

Following CDC's Appendix A: Guideline for Isolation Precautions

Other

None

dphredcap.ph.lacounty.gov

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

4. Provide Feedback

Complete the ICAR survey in REDCap

- Upload or enter direct observation data
- Each module has a space to enter detailed recommendations

Write a secure email

- Include top 5 recommendations
- Include list of resources
- Attach detailed pdf of ICAR

As needed:

- Virtual meeting with LTCF to discuss more complex or detailed guidance (e.g., enhanced barrier precaution implementation/MDRO cohorting)

Example of top 5 Recommendations:

1. Include the following elements in your hand hygiene program: delegating audits to department supervisors, implementing accountability, and sharing data trends with frontline staff.
2. Meet with the Environmental Services Supervisor and discuss expectations and develop a standardized workflow for cleaning and disinfection in your facility.
3. Develop an enhanced barrier precautions policy so you are in compliance with CMS. Before writing the policy, complete a tabletop exercise (or multiple exercises) with staff to determine an effective workflow that addresses various scenarios and nuances.
4. Develop a plan for the 2024-2025 respiratory virus season including pharmacy partnerships, promoting COVID-19, influenza and RSV vaccines as recommended by public health, tracking immunizations, and increasing vaccine acceptance with your staff.
5. Implement a tagging system for the laundry carts so they are clearly labeled as cleaned and disinfected.



Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

5. Implementation

LTCF to implement recommendations as they see fit

- Encouraged to use quality assurance/performance improvement approaches
- Encouraged to set reasonable goals with implementation (consider competing priorities such as immunizations for respiratory viral season)
- Encouraged to reach out to LHD IP or nurse consultants with questions

Detailed LAC DPH Workflow

6. Follow up

Post-ICAR survey (optional)

As needed:

- Referral to other outreach programs
- Virtual site visit
- Additional in-person site visit



LAC DPH ICAR Workflow Takeaways

- Cut down on time
- Direct intervention
- Consider how you deliver information to the IP vs to other leadership staff
 - IP: **improving the IPC program**
 - Leadership staff: **supporting the IPC program**



Use Your ICAR Results



Develop Resources That Address Gaps

Examples of gaps

- Hand hygiene
 - Inadequate access
 - Low adherence

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 - Doffing in a manner that contaminates HCWs
 - Multiple and conflicting signage

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 - Starting in the resident bathroom
 - Not observe disinfectant contact time

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Handouts

Checklists

Websites

Videos

Webinars

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Transmission-based Precautions

Enhanced Standard Precautions



These precautions should be used during high contact care for residents with high risk characteristics for MDRO colonization and transmission, even if MDRO status is unknown:

- Presence of indwelling devices (e.g. urinary catheter, feeding tube, endotracheal or tracheostomy tube, vascular catheters)
- Wounds, or pressure ulcer (unhealed)

This would include all residents in a subacute unit.

Novel Respiratory Precautions



These precautions should be used for patients known or suspected to be infected with novel respiratory pathogens such as, but not limited to: SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19

STOP

ALTO

Contact Precautions

Medidas de Precaución de por Contacto

See nurse before entering the room

Vea a la enfermera(o) antes de entrar al cuarto

Clean hands on room entry
Límpiese las manos antes de entrar al cuarto

Wear a gown on room entry
Use una bata al entrar al cuarto

Wear gloves on room entry
Use guantes al entrar al cuarto

Clean hands when exiting
Límpiese las manos al salir

Content adapted from UCLA Health Infectious Disease Signs

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF.htm
Contact Precautions, Revised August 2021

1. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm>
2. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/IPContactPrecautions.pdf>

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Handouts

INFECTION PREVENTION BEST PRACTICES CLEANING & DISINFECTION

<p>1st</p> <p>Clean: the physical removal of debris (dust, soil, bodily fluid) using friction, water and detergent.</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>Disinfect: the process of killing germs.</p>		
<p>PRODUCT REVIEW</p> <p>Read the instructions and consider the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pathogens the product is effective against <input type="checkbox"/> Longest contact time on the label <input type="checkbox"/> Surfaces the product can be used on 	<p>ROUTINE VERSUS TERMINAL</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Routine occurs when the room is occupied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> At least once daily <input type="checkbox"/> Attend to high touch surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Remove organic material <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce contamination </td> <td style="vertical-align: top;"> <p>Terminal occurs after the resident is discharged or transferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend to all surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Remove organic material <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Discard disposable personal care items </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Routine occurs when the room is occupied.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> At least once daily <input type="checkbox"/> Attend to high touch surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Remove organic material <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce contamination 	<p>Terminal occurs after the resident is discharged or transferred.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Attend to all surfaces <input type="checkbox"/> Remove organic material <input type="checkbox"/> Eliminate contamination <input type="checkbox"/> Discard disposable personal care items
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<p>EPA REGISTRATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Find the EPA registration number on the product <input type="checkbox"/> Verify that it is listed on EPA's list of approved disinfectants <input type="checkbox"/> https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/selected-epa-registered-disinfectants 			
<p>PRODUCT STORAGE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Follow the Instructions <input type="checkbox"/> Designated storage area <input type="checkbox"/> Above the floor <input type="checkbox"/> Clearly labeled <input type="checkbox"/> Accessible to staff 	<p>SHARED EQUIPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make an inventory of shared items and equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Create a schedule indicating how often items should be cleaned and disinfected, and who is responsible <input type="checkbox"/> Clearly label and store equipment <input type="checkbox"/> Consider using disposable or dedicated equipment 		
<p>HIGH TOUCH SURFACES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a list of high touch surfaces that are specific to your facility <input type="checkbox"/> Implement a log or checklist that allows staff to sign off on the items they attended to <input type="checkbox"/> Review the cleaning and disinfection log <input type="checkbox"/> High touch surfaces may vary throughout the facility (e.g., resident room vs. staff break room). 	<p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Door handles <input type="checkbox"/> Light switches <input type="checkbox"/> Shared pens and office supplies <input type="checkbox"/> Sinks and faucet handles <input type="checkbox"/> Technology 		
<p>EVS CARTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain product and equipment stock <input type="checkbox"/> Create a schedule for cleaning and disinfecting the carts <input type="checkbox"/> Frequently inspect cleaning equipment and replace as needed 	<p>AUDITING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Regularly audit for compliance and quality of cleaning and disinfection protocols <input type="checkbox"/> Use direct observations, visual assessments or fluorescent marker auditing <input type="checkbox"/> Provide non-punitive feedback to staff 		

1. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/IPCleaningandDisinfection.pdf>
 2. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/IPCTrainingforSNFs.htm>



LAC DPH Developed Resources: Handouts

KEEP HANDS CLEAN

- ✓ Prevent the spread of germs
- ✓ Protect your residents, yourself and your coworkers

How to Hand RUB



Steps

1. Dispense alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol) into hands
2. Rub all surfaces of hands or at least 20 seconds including:
 - Palms
 - Back of hands
 - Fingers
 - Fingernails
 - Back of fingers
 - Thumb creases
 - Top of wrists
3. Allow hands to air dry

How to Hand WASH

Steps

1. Wet hands with water
2. Apply soap and lather
3. Scrub all surfaces of hands for at least 20 seconds including:
 - Palms
 - Back of hands
 - Fingers
 - Fingernails
 - Back of fingers
 - Thumb creases
 - Top of wrists
4. Rinse hands with water
5. Dry hands with towel
6. Use towel to turn off faucet
7. Discard hand towel

WHEN to perform hand hygiene

Before		After
<input type="checkbox"/> Donning PPE	<input type="checkbox"/> Touching a resident	<input type="checkbox"/> Entering a resident room
<input type="checkbox"/> Eating	<input type="checkbox"/> Entering or exiting the facility	<input type="checkbox"/> Bodily fluid exposure
<input type="checkbox"/> Touching shared equipment*	<input type="checkbox"/> Food preparation	<input type="checkbox"/> Handling garbage
<input type="checkbox"/> Entering a resident room	<input type="checkbox"/> Performing a resident care task	<input type="checkbox"/> Touching resident surroundings
<input type="checkbox"/> Performing a resident care task		<input type="checkbox"/> Blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing
		<input type="checkbox"/> Performing a resident care task
		<input type="checkbox"/> After toileting

*Examples of shared equipment: Blood pressure cuffs, thermometers, glucometers, walkers, wheelchairs, shower chairs

1. http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/LTC_HandHygiene.pdf
2. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/IPCTrainingforSNFs.htm>

LAC DPH Developed Resources: Webinars

Program Content Past Sessions

Training content for each session can be found below.

Session 5: Ask an IP Series (01/10/2024 - TBD) 

Session 4: Ask an IP Series (07/12/2023 - 11/08/2023) 

November 2023: Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 3 of 3 

[Slides](#) | [Recording](#)

October 2023: Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 2 of 3 

September 2023: Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 1 of 3 

August 2023: Influenza in Skilled Nursing Facilities 

July 2023: Norovirus Outbreak Control in Skilled Nursing Facilities 

Session 3: Ask an IP Series (03/09/2022 - 05/11/2022) 

1. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/index.htm>
2. <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/Session4/Session4November2023.pdf>



Ask an IP Learning and Communication Series

Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR)
Part 3 of 3

November 8, 2023
Krystal Smith, M.S., CIC

Acute Communicable Disease Control Program
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



The Need for Resources

Handouts

Checklists

Websites

Videos

Webinars

The collage features several key resources:

- Enhanced Standard Precautions (STOP AID):** A handout with icons for gloves, gowns, and masks.
- Novel Respiratory Precautions (STOP AID):** A handout with icons for masks and eye protection.
- INFECTION PREVENTION PRACTICES CHECKLIST:** A checklist with sections for:
 - 1st Clean:** Physical removal of debris (dust, soil, bodily fluid) using friction, water and detergent.
 - PRODUCT REVIEW:** Read instructions, consider pathogens, contact time, and surfaces.
 - EPA REGISTRATION:** Find EPA registration number and verify it's on the approved list.
 - PRODUCT STORAGE:** Follow instructions, designated storage area, above floor, clearly labeled, and accessible to staff.
 - HIGH TOUCH SURFACES:** Create a list of high touch surfaces, implement a log, and review cleaning/disinfection.
 - EVS CARTS:** Maintain stock, create a cleaning schedule, and inspect equipment.
- How to Hand Sanitize:** A video showing the steps: 1. Dispense a hand sanitizer (alcohol) into your palm. 2. Rub all surfaces for at least 20 seconds including: Palms, Back of hand, Fingers, Thumb, Top of hand. 3. Allow hands to dry.

Session 5: Ask an IP Series (01/10/2024 - TBD)	+
Session 4: Ask an IP Series (07/12/2023 - 11/08/2023)	-
November 2023: Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Part 3 of 3	+
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July 2023: Norovirus Outbreak Control in Skilled Nursing Facilities	+
Session 3: Ask an IP Series (03/09/2022 - 05/11/2022)	+
Session 2: Ask an IP Series (09/22/2021 - 12/14/2021)	+
Session 1: Ask an IP Series (6/9/2021 - 8/11/2021)	+



Sources

- <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/prevent/infection-control-assessment-tools.html>
- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm>

Resources

- IPC training for SNFs: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/IPCTrainingforSNFs.htm>
 - External resources (CDPH, CDC, APIC, CAHF, Oregon Patient Safety Commission)
 - Handouts
- Ask an IP Series: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/AskAnIPProgram/index.htm>
 - Slide decks
 - Recordings
- Transmission-based precautions: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF/index.htm>
 - Currently located in Section 4. Transmission-based Precautions



Thank you!

Questions?

