

# INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

Building Local Operational  
Capacity for COVID-19  
*(BLOC COVID-19):Year 2*

Infection Prevention and  
Control Assessment Training  
*(IPC-AT)*

September 15, 2021, 2:00 – 3:00 pm ET

# Webinar logistics

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- This webinar is being recorded. The recording will be shared.
- Submit questions at any time during this webinar via the “Q&A Box.” Questions will be addressed at the end of the webinar.
- If you need technical assistance, please use the “Q&A Box” or email [infectiousdiseases@naccho.org](mailto:infectiousdiseases@naccho.org).

# Agenda

Topic
<b>About NACCHO</b>
<b>Background</b>
<b>Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Training (IPC-AT)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Overview and activities</li><li>• Timeline</li><li>• Application instructions</li><li>• Selection criteria</li></ul>
<b>Building Local Operational Capacity for COVID-19</b>
<b>Comparing opportunities</b>
<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>Adjourn</b>

# About NACCHO

NACCHO is comprised of nearly **3,000 local health departments (LHDs)** across the United States. Our mission is to serve as a **leader**, **partner**, **catalyst**, and **voice** with local health departments.

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Training and education
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Resources, tools, and technical assistance

# Background

## Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Nursing Homes Preparing for COVID-19

This is an infection control assessment and response tool (ICAR) that can be used to help nursing homes prepare for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). This tool may also contain content relevant for assisted living facilities.

The items assessed support the key strategies of:

- Keeping COVID-19 out of the facility
- Identifying infections as early as possible
- Preventing spread of COVID-19 in the facility
- Assessing and optimizing personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
- Identifying and managing severe illness in residents with COVID-19

The areas assessed include:

- Visitor restriction
- Education, monitoring, and screening of healthcare personnel<sup>1</sup> (HCP)
- Education, monitoring, and screening of residents
- Ensuring availability of PPE and other supplies
- Ensuring adherence to recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) practices
- Communicating with the health department and other healthcare facilities

Findings from the assessment can be used to target specific IPC preparedness activities that nursing homes can immediately focus on while continuing to keep their residents and HCP safe.

### Additional Information for Personnel Conducting Assessments:

- The assessment includes a combination of staff interviews and direct observation of practices in the facility and can be conducted in-person or remotely (e.g., Tele-ICAR via phone or video conferencing). Provide a copy of the tool to the facility before completing the Tele-ICAR and encourage nursing home staff to take their own notes as you conduct the assessment.
- Background information in the light green boxes above each section being assessed provides context for the ICAR user. You should not read this aloud during the assessment process but can refer to it as additional information.
- Keep in mind that the goal of the assessment is to convey key messages to nursing homes and identify their COVID-19-specific preparedness needs. Note any IPC questions and concerns and address them after the ICAR is completed. If you need additional support and technical assistance during an assessment, know that you can engage state HD healthcare-associated infections/antibiotic resistance (HAI/AR) Program leads for support.
- Assessment activities provide an opportunity for dialogue and information sharing.
  - » Discuss the purpose of the assessment. Emphasize that it is not a regulatory inspection and is designed to ensure the facility is prepared to quickly identify and prevent the spread of COVID-19.
  - » Promote discussion by asking additional questions to prompt or probe. Use this opportunity to address concerns and offer available resources.

<sup>1</sup>Health care personnel (HCP) are defined as paid and unpaid persons serving in health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or infectious materials.



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## NACCHO'S 2019 HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS & ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

The 2019 Local Health Department (LHD) Healthcare-Associated Infection (HAI) and Antibiotic Resistance (AR) Assessment aimed to describe the current landscape of HAI/AR work being conducted at the local level across the U.S. NACCHO employed a cross-sectional survey design to assess the extent to which LHDs engage in HAI/AR activities, explore existing LHD partner engagement, examine the role that LHDs play in outbreak response, and evaluate LHD capacity and infrastructure in HAI/AR prevention and control.



### HAI/AR ACTIVITIES

LHDs conduct a wide variety of HAI/AR work and most commonly report four key activities.



### ENGAGEMENT WITH HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

LHDs most frequently engage with nursing homes, skilled nursing facilities, and short-stay acute care hospitals, while some also work with long-term acute care hospitals and dialysis facilities.



## Report of Local Health Department Infection Prevention and Control Training Needs

August 2021





# Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Training (IPC-AT)

# Overview and activities

*IPC-AT*

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- **Overview**

- NACCHO and APIC Consulting Services (APIC Consulting) will provide technical assistance in up to 30 LHDs to increase IPC capacity and refine their IPC skills.

- **Goal**

- Participation in these technical assistance activities will enhance LHDs capacity for prevention of and response to infection threats, such as COVID-19 and healthcare associated infections (HAIs), at LTCFs.

- **Funding**

- NACCHO will cover the cost of an APIC Consultant, identified by APIC Consulting, to reduce the burden on LHDs. Therefore, LHDs will receive support through this mechanism at no cost within the partnership parameters.

# Overview and activities, cont.

*IPC-AT*

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- **Expectations of LHDs**

- Coordinate IPC outreach and assessment efforts with state health departments and, as appropriate, other local IPC partners.
- Attend remote online training sessions with the APIC Consultant for TeleICAR training and shadowing.
- Shadow up to two TeleICARs and lead up to two TeleICARs with facilities in the applicant's jurisdiction.
- Participate in occasional peer-sharing and technical-assistance calls.
- Complete evaluation-related activities to track and measure progress.



# Timeline

*IPC-AT*

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- **Wednesday, August 25, 2021**
    - Request for technical assistance application opened
  - **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**
    - Informational webinar
  - **Friday, October 1, 2021**
    - Request for technical assistance application closes
  - **Friday, October 22, 2021**
    - Anticipated technical assistance award notification deadline
    - NACCHO will share notices of award of technical assistance on a rolling basis as applications are submitted

# Application instructions

*IPC-AT*

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## 1. Read the application instructions.

- <https://bit.ly/3BCwsi4>

## 2. Complete the request for technical assistance.

- Format → Microsoft Form
  - <https://bit.ly/2Wu95IR>
- Questions → 15 total with character limits
  - Background (n=7)
  - Capacity to implement project (n=2)
  - Project narrative and statement of need (n=6)

## 3. Await notification of award of technical assistance.

# Selection criteria

IPC-AT

- Score has two components: a general application score and a health equity score.
- Maximum total score = **6.00**
  - 5.00 general application + 1.00 health equity

Score section	Criteria	Weight
General application	<b>Jurisdiction need</b> <i>Score based on responses to questions 10-14 and, if applicable, question 15.</i>	60%
	<b>Jurisdiction capacity</b> <i>Score based on responses to questions 8-9.</i>	40%
Health equity <i>automatically calculated by NACCHO</i>	<b>Medically Underserved Areas/Populations (MUA/P) designation</b> <i>Score based on MUA/P status for service areas within applicant's jurisdiction.</i>	48%
	<b>CDC/ATSDR Minority Health Social Vulnerability Index (MH SVI) score</b> <i>Score based on composite MH SVI for counties within applicant's jurisdiction.</i>	48%
	<b>New engagement with NACCHO Infectious Disease Program</b> <i>Score based on whether applicant worked with NACCHO's Infectious Disease Program within the last two years.</i>	2%



# Building Local Operational Capacity for COVID-19

# Overview and activities

*BLOC COVID-19*

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- **Overview**

- NACCHO provided funding from July 2020 to July 2021 that supported LHDs building capacity to conduct IPC activities in high-risk facilities.
- NACCHO will launch this fall a second iteration of the project with similar activities addressing COVID-19, HAIs, and antimicrobial resistance.

- **Activities**

- Leverage IPC subject matter experts to develop a training plan for LHD staff.
- Coordinate with the state HAI program and other partners.
- Identify and prioritize facilities to assess and support.
- Connect with NACCHO and other LHDs.
- Other supplemental activities.

# Comparing opportunities

	<b>BLOC COVID-19</b>	<b>IPC-AT</b>
<b>Activities</b>	<p>More activities, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Base</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of LHD staff capacity related to IPC</li> <li>• Coordinate approach with state health department HAI/AR program</li> <li>• Use data to identify and prioritize facilities to engage</li> <li>• Conduct ICARs or TeleICARs and provide support to facilities</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Supplemental</b></li> </ul>	<p>Fewer activities, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical assistance from locally-based board-certified Infection Preventionist</li> <li>• Conduct TeleICARs in up to four LTCFs</li> </ul>
<b>Funding</b>	Direct funding	No direct funding
<b>Facilities of focus</b>	LTCFs, dialysis centers, outpatient settings, critical access hospitals, and other healthcare facilities	LTCFs



# Q&A

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Please enter your questions or comments in the “Q&A Box.”



# Thank you for listening to the webinar!

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Email [infectiousdiseases@naccho.org](mailto:infectiousdiseases@naccho.org) with questions.

A FAQ document and the recording of this webinar will be posted alongside the RFA.