Healthcare Safety Newsletter

Healthcare Safety Unit: Protecting Texans | Fall 2024

In this issue…

Advisories, Alerts, and Recalls

- [Defibtech, LLC: Chest Compression Device Recall - Risk of Device Stopping Compressions | FDA](#)
- [Bausch + Lomb/Synergetics Inc.: Eye Injection Kit Recall due to Potential Non-Sterility | FDA](#)
- [Megadyne: Safe Use of Mega 2000 and Mega Soft Patient Return Electrodes - Letter to Health Care Providers | FDA](#)
- [Baxter: Life2000 Ventilator Recall due to Potential Failure of Battery Charging Dongle | FDA](#)
- [Smiths Medical: Software Corrections Issued for CADD-Solis and CADD-Solis VIP Ambulatory Infusion Pump due to Multiple Issues Related to Outdated Software | FDA](#)

Antimicrobial Stewardship

Antimicrobial Stewardship Regional Advisory Committee Achievements

Early 2024, the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Antimicrobial Stewardship (AS) team successfully coordinated statewide AS Regional Advisory Committee (ASRAC) virtual meetings in seven of Texas' eight Public Health Regions. The meetings offered healthcare providers and the public evidence-based education and tools promoting thoughtful use of antimicrobials to reduce antibiotic resistance, with a focus on Long-term Care Facilities. An overall goal was to decrease the incidence, morbidity, and mortality associated with antibiotic-resistant organism through relevant and tangible stakeholder education and collaborations.

Meeting recordings are here: [Live & Archived Meetings | Texas Health and Human Services](#). For information: antibioticstewardship@dshs.texas.gov.

Long-Term Care Surveillance Data

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) emphasizes the [Core Elements of AS](#) to improve patient safety and guide antibiotic use. Long-term care facilities prioritize stewardship by aligning with [CMS regulations](#) to implement and monitor AS programming at their facilities.

The CDC monitors these [Core Elements of AS for Nursing Homes](#) through the [National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)'s](#) [Long-term Care Facility Component-Annual Facility Survey](#). The latest data on AS Core Elements in long-term care is here: [CDC's Antibiotic Resistance & Patient Safety Portal](#).

Resource: Current Report | [Antibiotic Use | CDC](#)

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) released a podcast with A.C. Burke, Vice President for Healthcare Quality for RB Health Partners, Inc., discussing infection control in nursing homes, the importance of infection prevention roles, and problems such as understaffing and employee burnout. Listen and learn why it is crucial to stop infections in nursing homes where staff must balance safety and quality of life for patients.

Resource: [#55 Nipping Infections in the Bud: Spotlight on IPs in Long-term Care – 5-Second Rule (5secondruleshow.org)](#)

Department of State Health Services Audiovisual Library

The DSHS Audiovisual Library has free access to video streaming 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](#).

Fighting Antimicrobial-Resistant Pathogens (suggested video)

Location: Online at [Library catalog](#). Publisher: Films on Demand, 2021 (29 minutes). Outlines rise of Antimicrobial-Resistant (AR) pathogens and CDC recommendations for antibiotics.

Infection Control Resources

New Project Firstline Resources

CDC's Project Firstline (PFL) developed a fact sheet to help healthcare providers monitor for measles cases during peak travel times.

Measles, a serious disease, often transmitted by unvaccinated individuals and begins with fever, cough, runny nose, and pink eye before a rash. Providers should consider measles if patients present these symptoms and communicate with local health departments. Healthcare workers should also protect themselves and use special precautions when checking patients for measles.
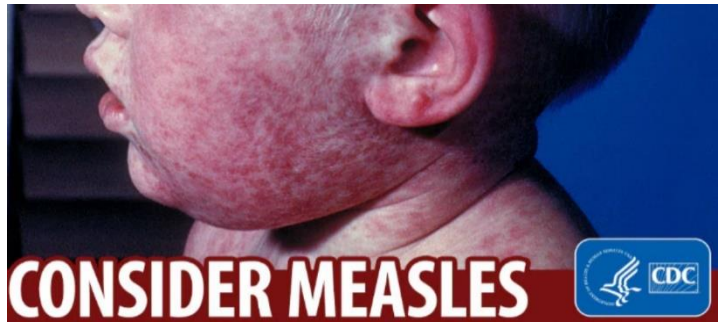
More Information:
Rash Micro-Learn (cdc.gov)
For Healthcare Providers - Clinical Overview of Measles | CDC
Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Measles in Healthcare Settings | Infection Control | CDC
Rubeola / Measles | CDC Yellow Book 2024

Artificial Intelligence in Infection Prevention and Safety

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a revolutionary change in healthcare, where every choice impacts operational effectiveness and patient outcomes. Read this Infection Today article, about how hospitals grapple with the costly burden of Healthcare-associated Infections (HAIs), and how AI decreases infection prevention costs and challenges.

Additional patient benefits are reviewed in an Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) article, such as evidence of AI predicting and preventing patient harm in several healthcare domains, including but not limited to, adverse drug events, falls, and pressure ulcers.

Well-Being Check

Using Polyvagal Theory to Improve Patient Care

The self-paced Polyvagal Theory course for providers teaches simple ways to understand your own nervous system and practical skills for developing resilience and avoiding burnout. You will also learn to read patients' autonomic states to help them feel comfortable and connected. The four-hour course by Drs. Heather Abernethy and Stephen Porges includes didactics and a physician panel discussion.

To learn more about this free course or to register: Polyvagal Theory for Healthcare Providers (polyvagalinstitute.org)