

Southern Nevada Health District HAI Program

Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program Newsletter

Clark County | 2026 Third Quarter Edition

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [reports](#) continued growth of *Candida auris* in U.S. healthcare settings. CDC emphasizes *C. auris* screening of high-risk patients, appropriate transmission-based precautions, use of disinfectants effective against *C. auris*, communication during transfers, antifungal susceptibility testing, and strong coordination between healthcare facilities and public health to limit further transmission. Did you know the Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory (SNPHL) offers no cost *C. auris* screening?

Global Handwashing Day

Global Handwashing Day is October 15, 2026. Clean hands matter in every healthcare facility. Did you know CDC offers a hand hygiene video series to help facilities establish an effective hand hygiene program? Watch the [4E's of Effective Hand Hygiene](#). Find Clean Hands Count print materials [here](#).

Celebrate International Infection Prevention Week

October 19–25

The theme this year is Generations of Infection Prevention. Let's honor the work of Infection Preventionists protecting patients, healthcare providers, and communities.

Be on the lookout for [fun daily activities](#) to highlight the important work of Infection Preventionists. Consider using a [Project Firstline Micro-Learn](#) for team education.



Resource Highlights

Southern Nevada Public Health Laboratory

SNPHL is now offering no-cost CPO (Carpabenemase-Producing Organism) screening. You can find SNPHL's website [here](#).

New CDC Resource: Antimicrobial Resistance Communications Toolkit

CDC recently released a new [Antimicrobial Resistance Communications Toolkit](#) to raise awareness about antimicrobial resistance and the importance of preventing the spread of drug-resistant germs. The toolkit provides ready-to-use resources for communicating with healthcare professionals, patients, and the public about antimicrobial resistance.

IDSA Releases Updated Guidance for Antimicrobial-Resistant Gram-Negative Infections

The Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) released its [2026 Guidance on the Treatment of Antimicrobial-Resistant Gram-Negative Infections](#). The updated guidance provides treatment recommendations for several important antimicrobial-resistant organisms. The 2026 update incorporates new evidence, treatment options, susceptibility breakpoints, and changes in the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance.

Healthcare Facility Spotlight (Cheers for Peers)

TLC Care Center

As a newer Infection Preventionist, Gracie Martinez at TLC Care Center has really embraced her role. She has utilized Southern Nevada Health District (SNHD) as a resource to help improve infection prevention and control (IPC) practices within her facility. She is very receptive, responsive and never hesitates to reach out with any questions. She cares very much about the residents in her facility and is always striving to ensure their safety and well-being. Cheers to TLC Care Center and Gracie!



Room Cleaning Sequence: Make Every Clean Count

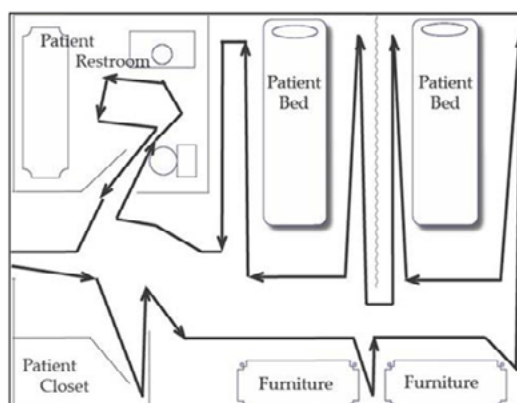
Did you know? Cleaning room surfaces in the wrong order can increase the risk of spreading environmental pathogens, rather than killing them.

The winning sequence:

1. Prepare enough cleaning cloths to replace them frequently during the cleaning process.
2. Collect trash first.
3. Move from clean to dirty - start in the cleaner areas away from patient areas and bathrooms.
4. Clean from top to bottom - for each section, start with the higher surfaces then work your way down.
5. For shared rooms, clean each patient area separately with separate cloths.
6. End in the bathroom, leaving the toilet for last.
7. Change cleaning cloths frequently, including when entering a new room, at each new patient area, when visibly soiled, when low on disinfectant, and if moving from a dirtier to a cleaner area. Never return used cloths to clean disinfectant solutions or containers.
8. When cleaning floors, leave the bathroom floor for last and change microfiber mops heads after each room.

What to do: Audit room cleanings frequently, focusing on the sequence and process not just the finished room. Ensure high-touch surfaces including handrails, remotes, light switches, and toilet flush handles are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Identify behaviors that could lead to cross-contamination and provide real-time coaching and reinforcement. Update policies as needed to clarify expectations, streamline workflows, and minimize mistakes or confusion.

Why it matters: Cleaning in the wrong sequence, from heavily soiled to less soiled areas, can transfer pathogens increasing the risk of cross-contamination. Following a consistent environmental cleaning process supports a safer environment for patients, residents, visitors and healthcare personnel.



Schedule Environmental Services (EVS) Training

In addition to offering training at a specific facility, SNHD is offering training at our main site beginning next year. Facilities can register newly hired staff or staff that can benefit from attending the Project Firstline EVS Training. Every person attending must register.

Tuesday January 26, 2027

8 a.m. -12 p.m. (English)

[Register here](#)

1 - 5 p.m. (Spanish)

[Register here](#)

Thursday March 18, 2027

8 a.m. -12 p.m. (Spanish)

[Register here](#)

1 - 5 p.m. (English)

[Register here](#)

To learn more or schedule training for your facility, contact us at hai@snhd.org.



Research Spotlight

Legionnaires' disease continues to be an important and growing waterborne disease threat in the United States. A 2026 review examined 75 peer-reviewed studies and government reports and found that reported Legionnaires' disease incidence has steadily increased since the early 2000s. Legionella can persist and grow within building plumbing and other engineered water systems, particularly when conditions such as warmer water temperatures, stagnation, biofilm formation, and aging infrastructure are present. Rising temperatures, flooding and heavy precipitation, drought, and periods of reduced water use can affect water temperature, flow, disinfectant levels, and stagnation, which are all factors that can create conditions favorable for Legionella growth.

Why it matters

These findings reinforce the importance of a proactive water management program rather than waiting until a case or outbreak occurs. Healthcare facilities care for patients that are most vulnerable to severe Legionnaires' disease, making prevention especially important. The CDC has a [toolkit](#) to help facilities develop a water management program. Did you know we have subject matter experts who can assist you? Please reach out any time.

Upcoming Events

APIC Chapter 35 Monster Mash Educational Meeting

🕒 Friday, October 23, 2026
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. (Doors open at 7:30am)

📍 Rawson-Neal Hospital Conference Center
ADSD Training Building
1391 S. Jones Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89146

💰 Cost is \$25 for APIC members,
and \$50 for non-APIC members.

Day of Event Payments: Cost increases to \$30 for
APIC members / \$55 non-APIC members.

Registration and Payment

Please register here: [APIC Southern Nevada 3rd Annual Microbe Monster Mash – Fill out form](#)

To pay the registration fee, participants can put in phone number 505-382-6011 on their Zelle app if they have it or through their banking app if available. If they do not have Zelle, they can enroll in the service using the QR code.

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Resource Library

Please visit the HAI Resource Library at
snhd.info/healthcare-associated-infections-program/resource-library/

We Want Your Feedback

Facility Feedback Survey

SNHD has developed a brief HAI program survey to better understand the needs and priorities of healthcare facilities in Southern Nevada. Feedback from facilities will help guide program activities, resources and future support efforts.

Take the survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8963860/HAI-Facility-Feedback>

We encourage infection prevention staff and facility leadership to participate.

Have a question about infection prevention?
Interested in a future training topic? Is there a subject you'd like to see covered in a future newsletter?

We'd love to hear from you. Contact the SNHD HAI Program at HAI@snhd.org.

