

In Highlight

Shining a spotlight on efforts to eliminate *Clostridium difficile* in Illinois

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Preventing healthcare associated infections (HAIs), including *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDI), is a high priority in Illinois and many stakeholders are engaged in CDI prevention efforts. This *In Highlight* features two such initiatives by local health departments (LHDs) focusing mainly on long term care facilities.

Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) Long-Term Care Roundtable

The CDPH Long-Term Care Roundtable is being convened to improve collaboration between long-term care and the LHD. Administrators and the individuals serving the role of infection control at skilled nursing facilities in Chicago have been invited to attend the Roundtable which is meeting at the CDPH West Side Center for Disease Control office on a monthly or bimonthly basis (meeting frequency to be determined). Goals of the Roundtable are to:

- Provide awareness of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) mandate for skilled nursing facilities to have a designated Infection Prevention and Control Professional.
- Discuss topics including, but not limited to, infection surveillance and control of multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs) and CDI.
- Provide intervention tools to assist infection control programs at long-term care.
- Provide assistance with outbreak control.
- Meet colleagues and problem-solve.

For questions about the Long-Term Care Roundtable please contact Stephanie Black, MD, MSc, at Stephanie.Black@cityofchicago.org or (ph) 312-746-6034.

DuPage County Health Department (DCHD) Demonstration Project

- DCHD was selected as a demonstration site by National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to investigate the capacity of LHDs to prevent HAIs and MDROs.
- The NACCHO demonstrations project goals are to increase LHD engagement with state HAI prevention activities, identify HAI-related needs, successes, roles, opportunities and recommendations to address gaps for LHDs regarding HAI prevention and injection safety.
- DCHD will conduct an in-depth, infection control needs assessment that includes a HAI/MDRO surveillance component with a sample of long-term care facilities in DuPage County.
- DCHD will host a meeting of local hospitals and long term care facilities to discuss issues regarding infection control and collaboration.

For questions about the demonstration project please contact Stacey Hoferka Jensen, MPH, MSIS, at shoferka@dupagehealth.org or (ph) 630-221-7175.



As part of the Illinois Campaign to Eliminate *Clostridium difficile* (**ICE C. diff.**), *In Highlight* is an effort initiated by the Illinois Department of Public Health's Division of Patient Safety and Quality to share information and highlight success stories on *C. diff* prevention efforts around the state.

Please send any questions or comments about *In Highlight* to Chinyere Alu: Chinyere.alu@illinois.gov, (ph) 312-814-2565