How CDC Helps Resolve Outbreaks in Healthcare Facilities

Milestones in an Epi-Aid Investigation

1. CDC receives a call or e-mail from a facility or health department
2. CDC epidemiologist gathers initial information and provides consultation on case finding, lab testing and infection control
3. Health department extends a formal invitation for CDC to help lead an on-site team
4. CDC Epidemic Intelligence Service Officers arrive on-site and help gather additional information from interviews, case/chart reviews, observations and environmental sampling
5. The team analyzes this information to identify risk factors for infection and help develop control measures
6. CDC recommends new or revised measures and steps to prevent more patients from becoming infected or harmed
7. Health department and facility implement recommendations and check to ensure the control measures are working
8. Following the conclusion of the on-site investigation, group communications continue to review what has worked and make adjustments as needed

CDC reviews the situation for lessons learned and takes steps to prevent similar outbreaks