

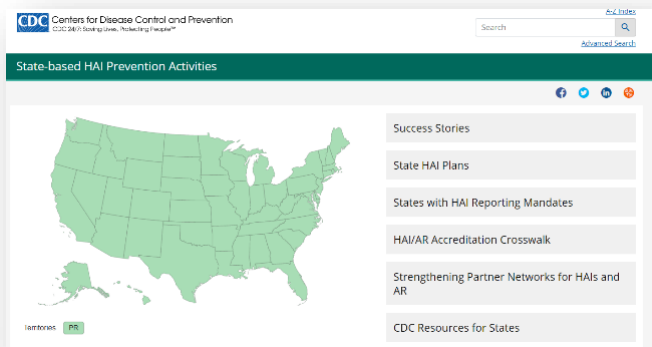
LHD STRATEGY FOR RESPONSE, CONTROL, AND PREVENTION OF HAI/AR

Facilitating Conversations with State HAI/AR Programs

Overview

As a local health department (LHD), you are uniquely positioned to prevent, control, and respond to HAI/AR threats. Communicating and collaborating with other local or regional jurisdictions and your state’s HAI/AR program is essential to coordinate activities and prevent the spread of infections. This document serves as a guide for facilitating conversations with your state HAI/AR program or other partners that have a role in preventing and responding to HAI/AR infections in your jurisdiction.

Getting Started



If you don’t already have a relationship with your state HAI/AR program:

1. Visit the [State-based HAI Prevention Activities webpage](#).
2. Click on your state and scroll to the “State Contact” tab.

Outcomes

This guide should help you gain a deeper understanding of the following:



The state’s HAI/AR priorities



The local HAI/AR priorities and how they align to the states



The distinct roles and responsibilities of the LHD and the state in HAI/AR activities

See the questions on the next pages to help guide coordination and collaboration with the state HAI/AR program.

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Understanding state and local HAI/AR prevention priorities

Consider the following to understand the state and local HAI/AR landscape and priorities:

What are the state-level HAI/AR priorities?

- How often does the state update its HAI/AR priorities?
- What is the process for determining state-level HAI/AR priorities?

How has the state HAI/AR program historically engaged with your LHD?

- What have been successes and challenges with historical engagement?

What data does the state use to determine HAI/AR priorities?

- Who has access to the data? How is data shared among public health and other key partners?
- Are there any relevant data use agreements that the state has?

HELPFUL TIPS

Resources to Leverage

It may be helpful to ask the state what activities were described in the state's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infection Diseases (ELC) Cooperative Agreement workplan or the State HAI/AR plan. Ask how the state's priorities changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Also ask to review or be connected to the state HAI/AR Advisory Committee and their materials.

Additional State Contacts

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) project, Strengthening HAI/AR Program Capacity (SHARP), directed recipients to identify an HAI Outbreak Lead, an Antibiotic Stewardship Lead, an NHSN Coordination Lead, an Antibiotic Resistance Coordinator, and a Project Firstline Lead. Depending on your state's governance, identifying and engaging with these leads will be crucial for maintaining content-specific relationships. Discuss with the state how they prefer to collaborate with leads.

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Understanding Roles and Responsibilities

To clarify state and local roles and responsibilities for HAI/AR activities, consider these questions:

Is the LHD or the state HAI/AR program responsible for:

- Reaching out to facilities or partners when responding to outbreaks involving healthcare facilities? Does this vary by pathogen or healthcare setting?
- Conducting surveillance for outbreak detection and maintaining situational awareness of HAI/AR events and priorities in the jurisdiction? Does this vary by pathogen/setting and surveillance system (e.g., NHSN vs. communicable disease reporting, acute care hospitals vs. long term care or output facilities)?
- Analyzing data to determine priority prevention activities at the local level?
- Providing education, training and outreach to the public, health care providers, and facilities related to infection prevention and control, stewardship, or HAIs in your jurisdiction?
- Implementing antibiotic stewardship practices and program activities in your jurisdiction?

How can your LHD and the state HAI/AR program work together to develop sustainable practices across programmatic implementation?

Next Steps

Now that you have a better understanding of the state and local priorities, roles, and responsibilities, revisit the [Interim LHD HAI/AR Strategy](#). Use these discussions with your state to inform which activities to embark upon first. As you follow the strategy and determine which activities are appropriate for your LHD, communicate with your colleagues at the state HAI/AR program and share your strategic plan with them.



For more information on the LHD Strategy for Response, Control, and Prevention of HAI/AR refer to the [Interim LHD HAI/AR strategy](#)