



Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program



Infection Control Assessment and Response Consultations

May 29, 2020

Hello infection prevention partners!

In an effort to assist our long-term care facilities in Kansas to strengthen their infection prevention and control (IPaC) programs, we are pleased to have the opportunity to offer a free, friendly, consultative call from our partners at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to conduct an ICAR evaluation focusing on COVID-19 preparedness. ICAR (Infection Control Assessment and Response) evaluations were created by CDC to provide a tool to assess your IPaC and guide quality improvement.

CDC has offered to do these helpful calls (referred to as tele-ICARs) for nursing homes throughout the U.S. In order to have this resource available to KS facilities, while our KDHE HAI/AR Program team is having to direct most of our efforts toward helping facilities respond to the presence of COVID-19, we asked CDC to help us by performing as many tele-ICARs in Kansas as they could. After the assessment, CDC provides my team with the notes so that our program can continue to assist your facility in addressing any identified gaps that you want to address.

Though these are currently focused on COVID-19 preparedness and prevention, ICARs are not a new concept and tools are available for a variety of healthcare settings such as acute care hospitals, long-term care facilities, outpatient settings (like ambulatory surgery centers and large clinics), and hemodialysis facilities. These tools can be accessed by anyone online at CDC's HAI website under [Infection Control Assessment Tools](#).

Please consider having this call with CDC to go over your current plan and actions, as well as to get helpful tips and tricks from the team leading the call. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. J. [unclear]".

Bryna Stacey

HAI/AR Program Contact Information

Bryna Stacey, MPH, BSN, RN
HAIR/AR Program Director
Phone 785-296-4090 | Email Bryna.Stacey@ks.gov

Robert Geist, MPH, CIC, FAPIC
HAI Advanced Epidemiologist
Phone 785-296-4202 | Email Robert.Geist@ks.gov

Justin Blanding, MPH
AR Epidemiologist
Phone 785-296-1242 | Email Justin.Blanding@ks.gov

Kellie Wark, MD, MPH
AR/AS Expert
Phone 785-291-3970 | Email Kellie.Wark@ks.gov

24/7 Epidemiology Hotline
Phone 877-427-7317 | Fax 877-427-7318