



HAIIP CONNECTION



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CONTENTS

1 ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE AND RTIs

2 RESPIRATORY VIRUS SEASON PREPAREDNESS

3 HEALTH OBSERVANCES

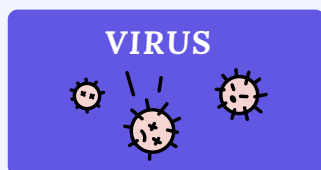
1 Antimicrobial Resistance and Respiratory Tract Infections (RTIs)

A [recent study](#) emphasized the burden of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the world. Antimicrobial resistance could cause more than 39 million cumulative deaths in the next 25 years, an annual increase of 70%.

By the year 2050, it is forecasted that 8.2 million deaths per year will be due to AMR.

AMR occurs when viruses, bacteria, fungi, and parasites do not respond to antimicrobial treatments in humans and animals, thus allowing the survival of the microorganism within the host.

The main cause of AMR has shown to be overuse and misuse of antibiotics.



Residents of long-term care facilities (LTCFs) face a greater risk of infection due to their comorbidities, functional impairments, and prolonged exposure to others in close quarters. As a result, they are twice as likely to receive antibiotic therapy compared to elderly individuals living in the community.

Moreover, RTIs are the most common infection treated with antibiotics at LTCFs. Hence, such facilities are at a higher risk for AMR.

A [systematic review](#) reported that 40–90% of antibiotics dispensed to LTCF residents were inappropriate.

What Steps Can Healthcare Professionals Take?



A. Prevention is the key to limiting infections.

- Follow CDC's [infection prevention and control guidelines](#).
- Ensure [recommended vaccines](#) are up to date.
 - For instance, influenza, RSV, COVID-19, pneumococcal etc.
- Educate patients on preventing infections, managing chronic conditions, and tracking/monitoring recent visits to other facilities (germs can spread easily when people move). Visit [Tips for Being a Safe Patient](#).
- Stay informed on current outbreaks.

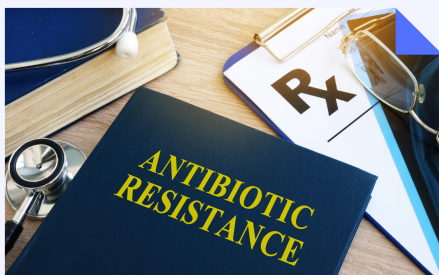
B. Practice proper prescribing patterns.

- Follow [clinical and treatment guidelines](#).
- Implement [CDC's Core Elements of Antibiotic Stewardship](#).
- Perform appropriate diagnostic tests.
- Ensure proper therapy is prescribed, as well as the correct drug, dose (amount), and duration (period of time).
- Consider fungal infections, such as Valley fever (coccidioidomycosis), histoplasmosis, or blastomycosis in patients with respiratory infections that do not respond to antibiotics.



C. Be alert and act.

- Be aware of infections and [resistance patterns](#) in your facility and community.
- Ensure lab notifications are immediate when antimicrobial-resistant pathogens are identified.
- Inform patients and families if they have an antimicrobial-resistant infection, as well as sexual partners when appropriate (e.g., gonorrhea).
- Know when to report cases and submit resistant isolates to the health department to identify unusual resistance or treatment failures.



To learn more about antimicrobial resistance, visit the following websites:

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- [About Antimicrobial Resistance](#)
- [Facts and Statistics on AMR](#)
- [Antibiotic Do's and Don'ts](#)
- [Vaccines to curb antimicrobial resistance](#)
- [Patient education resources](#)
- [Antibiotic Prescribing and Use](#)
- [Vaccines: A Critical Tool in the Fight Against Antimicrobial Resistance](#)

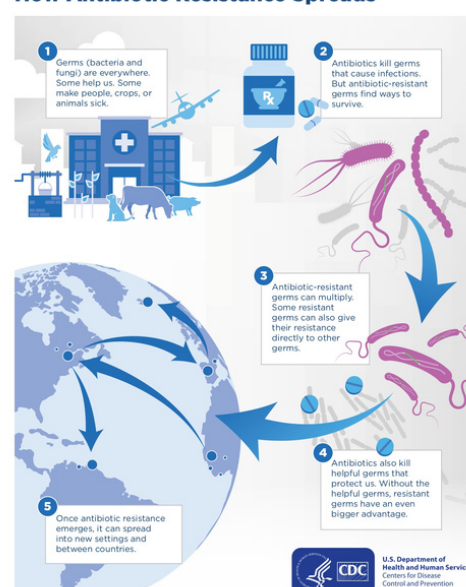
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

- [National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria](#)

World Health Organization

- [One Health approach](#)

How Antibiotic Resistance Spreads



2 Respiratory Virus Season Preparedness

Skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents are at an increased risk for severe disease, hospitalization, death, and outbreaks caused by COVID-19, influenza, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

Preventing the spread of respiratory viruses in nursing homes requires a comprehensive approach that includes vaccination, testing, treatment, and the implementation of proven infection prevention and control measures.

The [Viral Respiratory Pathogens Toolkit for Nursing Homes](#) helps infection preventionists and leadership prepare for and respond to nursing home residents or healthcare personnel (HCP) who develop signs or symptoms of a respiratory viral infection.



ACTIONS

- **PREPARE**
- **RESPOND**
- **CONTROL**

PREPARE for Respiratory Viruses

VACCINATE



Provide [recommended vaccines](#) to residents, health care personnel (HCP), and information (e.g., [posted materials](#), letters) to families and other visitors encouraging them to be vaccinated.

ALLOCATE RESOURCES



Ensure that resource limitations such as personal protective equipment (PPE) and alcohol-based hand sanitizer (ABHS) do not prevent HCP from adhering to recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) practices.

MONITOR AND MASK



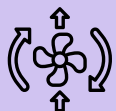
Be aware when levels of respiratory virus spread are increasing in the community. Consider requiring [masks](#) for visitors and HCP at all times and at a minimum, consider having residents wear a mask when outside of their rooms.

EDUCATE



Ensure everyone, including residents, visitors, and HCP are aware of recommended [IPC practices in the facility](#). Encourage visitors with respiratory symptoms to delay non-urgent in-person visitation until they are no longer infectious.

VENTILATE



In consultation with facility engineers, explore options to [improve ventilation delivery](#) and indoor air quality in resident rooms and all shared spaces.

TEST AND TREAT



Develop plans to provide rapid clinical evaluation and intervention to ensure residents receive timely [treatment and/or prophylaxis](#) when indicated.

Respond to Infections

When an acute respiratory infection is identified in a resident or HCP, rapid action is important to prevent the spread to others in the facility.

A. Prevent spread

Residents: Apply appropriate Transmission-Based Precautions for symptomatic residents based on the suspected cause of their infection.



Healthcare Personnel: Develop sick leave policies for HCP that are non-punitive, flexible, and consistent with public health guidance to discourage presenteeism and allow HCP with respiratory infections to stay home for the [recommended duration of work restriction](#).

B. Test

Test anyone with signs or symptoms of respiratory illness.

C. Treatment and prophylaxis

Provide recommended treatment and prophylaxis to infected and exposed residents when indicated.

D. Investigate

Investigate for potential respiratory virus spread among residents and HCP. Perform active surveillance to identify any additional ill residents or HCP using symptom screening and evaluating potential exposures.

Control Virus Spread



A. Notify

Notify the local public health department when outbreaks of any disease, including respiratory viruses, are suspected or confirmed (e.g., [COVID-19](#), [influenza](#), and [other respiratory viruses](#)). Once the spread of infection is identified in a nursing home, rapid and coordinated action is necessary to prevent further transmission. Health departments have IPC expertise and might also have access to additional testing resources to identify a potential etiology.

B. Make initial attempts to control limited spread

- Offer and reinforce the importance of vaccination in the facility.
- Implement universal masking for source control on affected units or facility-wide.

IMPORTANT



California Department of Public Health

AFL 23-36 [Recommendations for Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Influenza, and Other Respiratory Viral Infections](#) in California Skilled Nursing Facilities – 2023-24

AFL 23-08 [Requirements to Report Outbreaks and Unusual Infectious Disease Occurrences](#) (This AFL supersedes AFL 19-18)

3 Respiratory Virus Season Preparedness

Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week: November 18-24, 2024



Antibiotics
Antivirals
Antifungals
Antiparasitics

In 2019, almost 5 million deaths were linked to AMR.

AMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites no longer respond to medicines, making infections complicated to treat and increasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective, and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treat.

[The World AMR Awareness Week](#) raises awareness of antimicrobial resistance and promotes best practices to reduce the spread of drug-resistant infections.

National Handwashing Awareness Week December 1-7, 2024

The **Life is Better with Clean Hands** campaign was designed to motivate people to make clean hands part of their daily lives. The purpose of the campaign is to raise awareness about the importance of handwashing at key times, such as before eating or after using the bathroom.

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Studies have shown that handwashing can also prevent gastrointestinal illness and respiratory infections, such as colds or flu.



CDPH Center for Health Care Quality Skilled Nursing Facility Infection Prevention Webinar

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

3 - 4 p.m.

(every-other-month webinar)

Register at: www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars

HAIIP@dph.sbcounty.gov



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