

Guidance and responses were provided based on information known on 5.08.25 and may become out of date. Guidance is being updated rapidly; users should look to CDC and NE DHHS guidance for updates.

# Long Term Care Webinar Series

**May 8, 2025**

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



NEBRASKA INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTION PROGRAM

# Presentation Information

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- Slides and a recording of this presentation will be available on the ICAP website:  
<https://icap.nebraskamed.com/events/webinar-archive/>
- Use the Q&A box in the webinar platform to type a question. Questions will be read aloud by the moderator. If your question is not answered during the webinar, please either e-mail NE ICAP or call during our office hours to speak with one of our IPs.

# Continuing Education Disclosures

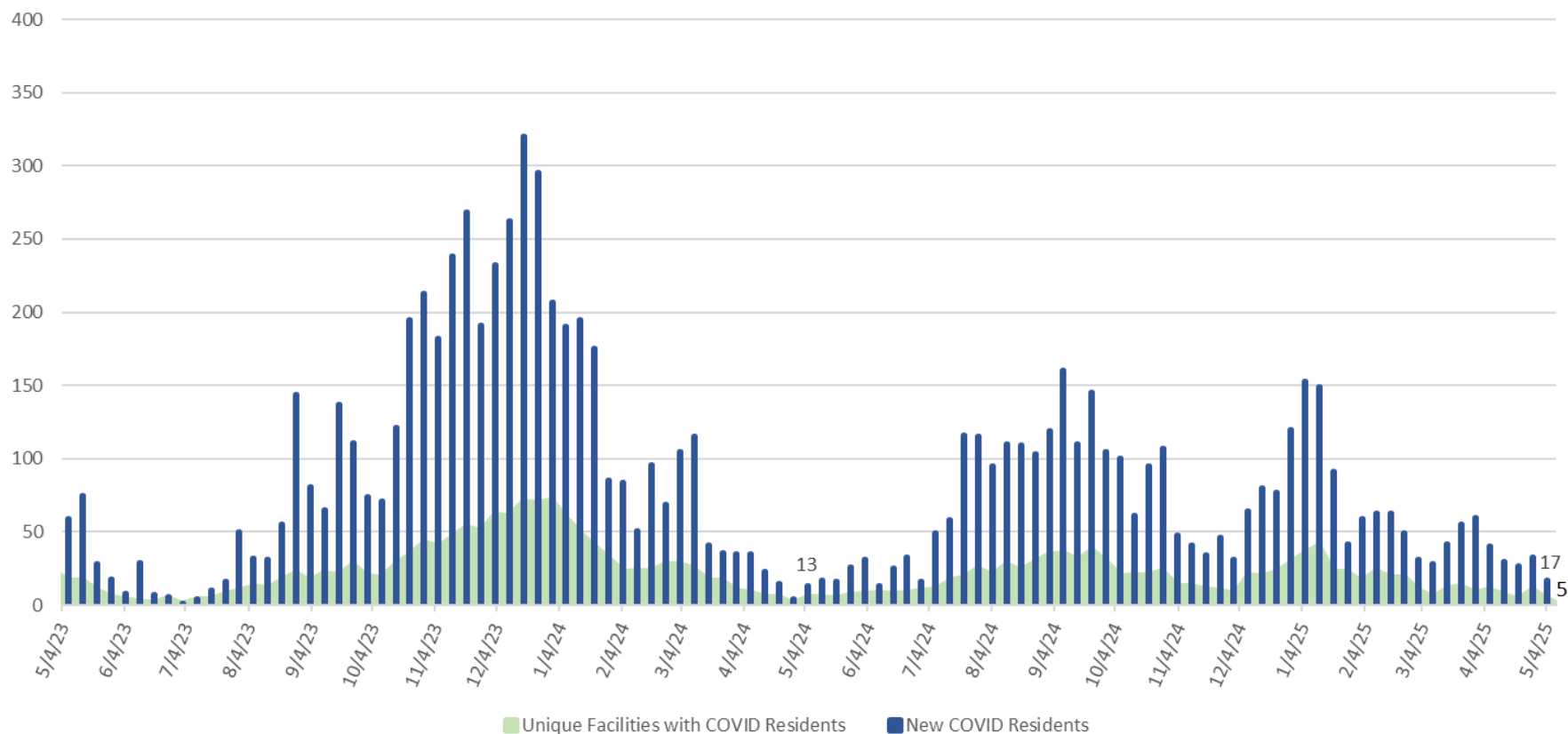
- 1.0 Nursing Contact Hour and 1 NAB Contact Hour is awarded for the LIVE viewing of this webinar
- In order to obtain nursing contact hours, you must attend the entire live activity and complete the post webinar survey
- No relevant financial relationships were identified for any member of the planning committee or any presenter/author of the program content
- This CE is hosted Nebraska ICAP along with Nebraska DHHS
- Nebraska Infection Control Assessment and Promotion Program is approved as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the Midwest Multistate Division, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation

# Nebraska Respiratory Illness Update



# Nebraska LTC Facility COVID-19 Outbreaks

Nebraska LTC - Facilities with at Least One COVID Resident & Total COVID Residents by Week



\*\*Updated: 5/5/2025

Source: Unofficial Counts Compiled by Nebraska ICAP based on data reported by facilities and DHHS; Actual numbers may vary.

# Wastewater Surveillance

Time Period: Apr 14, 2025 – Apr 28, 2025

Current SARS-CoV-2 virus levels by site, Nebraska

Current virus levels category	Num. sites	% sites	Category change in last 7 days
New Site	1	7	0%
0% to 19%	0	0	N/A**
20% to 39%	1	7	0%
40% to 59%	5	33	0%
60% to 79%	6	40	- 14%
80% to 100%	2	13	100%

Total sites with current data: 15

Total number of wastewater sampling sites: 18

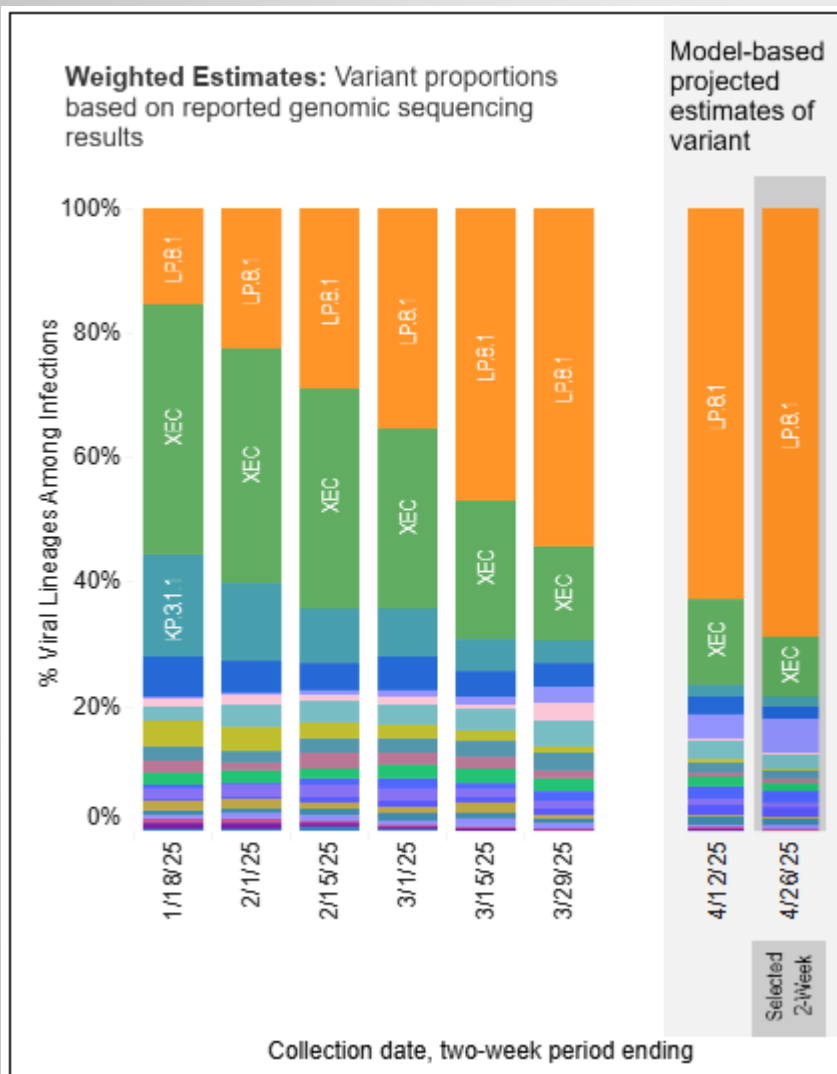
[How is the current SARS-CoV-2 level compared to past levels calculated?](#)



Nationally, the wastewater viral activity level for COVID-19 is currently **low**.



# What's happening with variants?

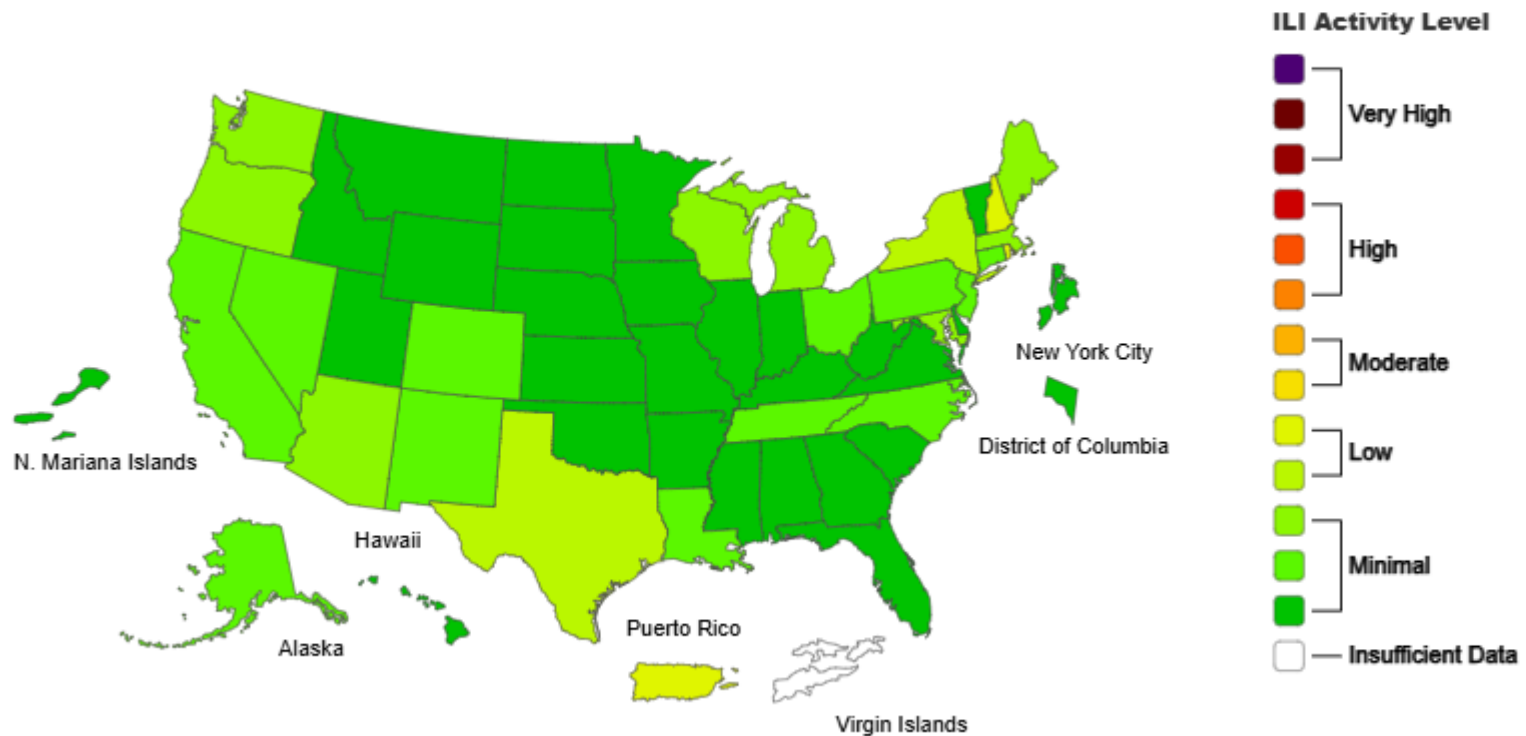


Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in United States for 2-week Period 4/13/2025 – 4/26/2025

WHO label	Lineage #	%Total	95%PI	
Omicron	LP.8.1	69%	62–75%	
	XEC	10%	7–14%	
	LF.7.7.2	6%	1–24%	
	LB.1.3.1	2%	1–4%	
	MC.10.1	2%	1–4%	
	LF.7.7.1	2%	1–3%	
	PA.1	2%	0–5%	
	XEC.4	1%	1–3%	
	LF.7	1%	1–2%	
	KP.3.1.1	1%	1–2%	
	MC.28.1	1%	1–2%	
	XEQ	1%	0–2%	
	KP.3	1%	0–1%	
	LF.7.2.1	1%	0–1%	
	MC.1	0%	0–1%	
	XEK	0%	0–1%	
	JN.1.16	0%	NA	
	MC.19	0%	NA	
	JN.1	0%	NA	

# Flu Activity US

2024-25 Influenza Season Week 17 ending Apr 26, 2025





# Staying Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines

Vaccine protection decreases over time, so it is important to get your 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine.



People ages 65 years and older are up to date when they have received:

- 2 doses of any 2024–2025 COVID-19 vaccine 6 months apart.
- While it is the *recommended* to get 2024-2025 COVID-19 vaccine doses 6 months apart, the *minimum* time is 2 months apart, which allows flexibility to get the second dose prior to typical COVID-19 surges, travel, life events, and healthcare visits



Report annual healthcare personnel (HCP) influenza vaccination data into NHSN by **May 15, 2025** to meet CMS reporting requirements for the 2024-2025 influenza season.

- The reporting period for the 2024-2025 influenza season is from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. Facilities are only required to submit one report that covers the entire reporting period by **May 15, 2025**.
- Facilities must report annual HCP influenza vaccination summary data through the NHSN Healthcare Personnel Safety (HPS) Component.

Resources:

Materials pertaining to annual HCP influenza vaccination data reporting are organized under the “Annual” reporting headings on this webpage: [HCP Flu Vaccination | HPS | NHSN | CDC \[t.emailupdates.cdc.gov\]](#).

This slide deck reviews how LTCFs can report annual HCP influenza vaccination data through NHSN: [Healthcare Personnel Safety Component Healthcare Personnel Vaccination Module Influenza Vaccination Summary Long-Term Care Facilities \[t.emailupdates.cdc.gov\]](#).

Please direct all questions regarding CMS SNF QRP requirements and deadlines to: [SNFQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:SNFQualityQuestions@cms.hhs.gov).



CDC highly encourages all LTC facilities to complete the **Annual Facility Survey** in NHSN.

- **Accessing the Survey:** You can find the survey under the "**Action Items**" section or by clicking the "**Surveys**" tab on the left navigation panel on the NHSN application home page.
- **Survey Period:** The survey covers facility characteristics and practices from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.

[57.137 LTCF Annual Facility Survey](#)

[Instructions for Completion of LTCF Component Annual Facility Survey](#)



# 2025 Nebraska ASAP Antimicrobial Stewardship Summit



New this year, **Antimicrobial Stewardship Foundations Track!**

Target audience: infection preventionists working in long-term care

- Core Elements Workshop
- Interpreting and Acting on Microbiology results
- Best practices with the “big 3 infections” UTI, respiratory infection, and skin & soft tissue infection
- Data use workshop: completing an antibiotic log and using/ presenting summary data
- Talking to your frontline staff and partners about stewardship and getting the support you need

[Click Here to Register! 2025 Nebraska Antimicrobial Stewardship Summit](#)



# Chlorhexidine Decolonization

**Richard Hankins, MD, MS**  
**Assistant Professor of Infectious Diseases**

NEBRASKA

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NEBRASKA INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND PROMOTION PROGRAM

# Background

Hospital-acquired infections (HAI) and multi-drug resistant organisms (MDRO) are a significant cause of morbidity and mortality in the hospital setting.

Bacteria often colonize patient's skin and can become a source of infection.

Chlorhexidine (CHG) is a broad-spectrum disinfectant that at low concentration causes bacterial osmotic disequilibrium and at high concentration enters into the bacterial cytoplasm resulting in rapid cell death.

O'Grady *AJIC* 2011  
Popovich *ICHE* 2009  
Huang *NEJM* 2013

## Antiseptic uses in healthcare:

- Hand antisepsis at 2% and 4%
- Dental hygiene
- 1990s: Cleaning of skin prior to line insertion
- 1990s: Pre-operative bathing
- 2000s: Surgical prep
- 2010s: Universal ICU bathing
- 2019: CHG for non-ICU bathing
- 2023: Universal bathing outside of the hospital

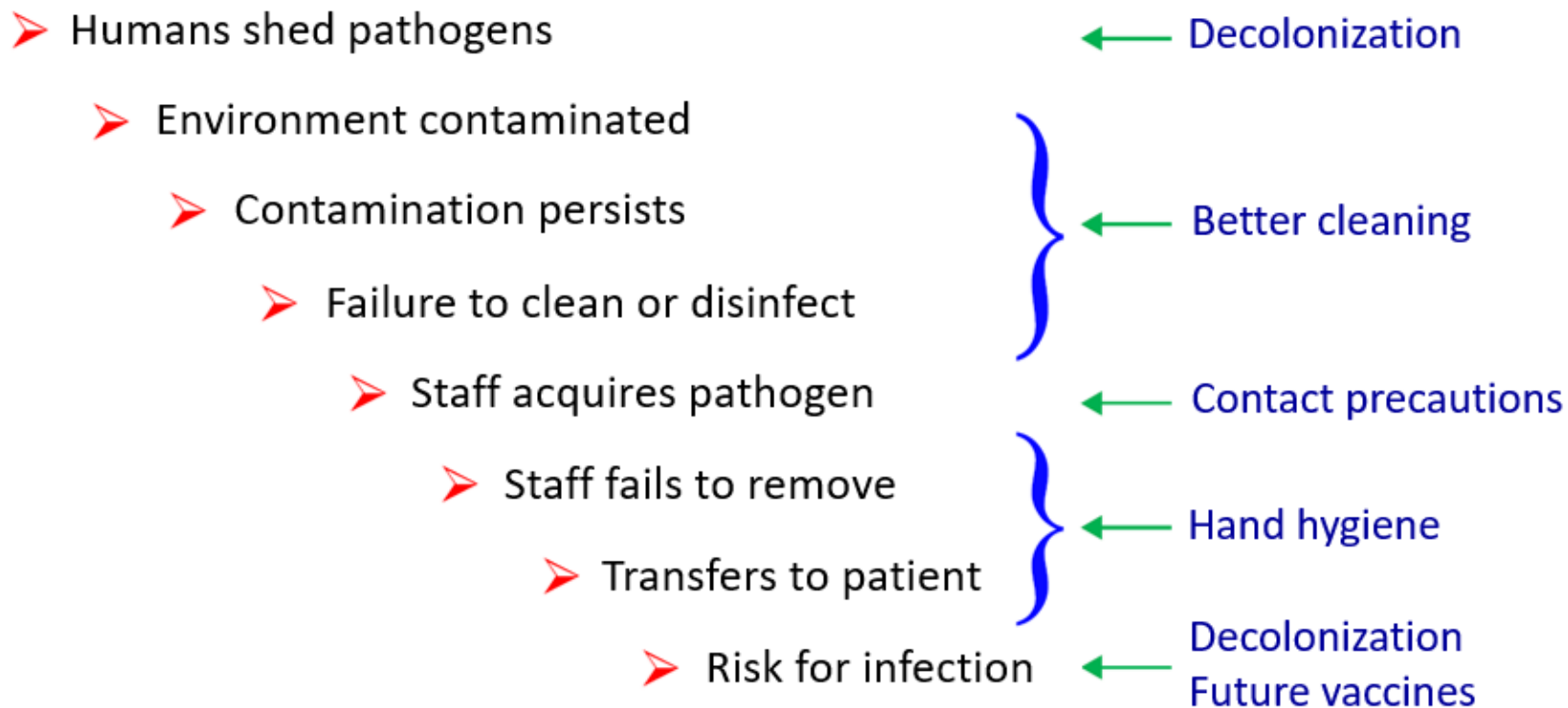
# Why is Decolonization Needed?

*Because human pathogen transmission is a cascade of unfortunate events*

- Humans shed pathogens
  - Environment contaminated
    - Contamination persists
      - Failure to clean or disinfect
        - Staff acquires pathogen
          - Staff fails to remove
            - Transfers to patient
              - Risk for infection



# Interventions



# Is there a benefit in Nursing Homes or Long Term Care?

# MDROS in Nursing Homes

- In hospitals, 10-15% of patients harbor an MDRO
- In nursing homes, 65% of residents harbor an MDRO
- Higher prevalence in nursing homes may be related to:
  - Shared activities
  - Shared rooms
  - Longer lengths of stay
  - More chronic illness and devices, including feeding tubes
  - Less stringent infection prevention vs hospitals

# The Protect Trial

- Cluster-Randomized Pragmatic Trial
  - 28 nursing homes
  - Involved nearly 14,000 residents
- Group 1: Routine Care
  - Usual soap for showering/bathing
- Group 2: Decolonization
  - CHG for all bathing/showering
  - Nasal iodophor for all residents, M-F twice daily, every other week

# Decolonization Benefits in Nursing Homes

The below results are from the Protect Trial and were redemonstrated during the SHIELD regional intervention, both of which involved pragmatic adoption of decolonization in nursing homes.

## *Residents less colonized by MDROs*

- ✓ Any MDRO            **30% reduction**
- ✓ MRSA                **27% reduction**
- ✓ VRE                  **71% reduction**
- ✓ ESBL                 **50% reduction**

**Decolonization results in fewer MDROs, less MDRO colonization, and fewer residents on contact precautions**

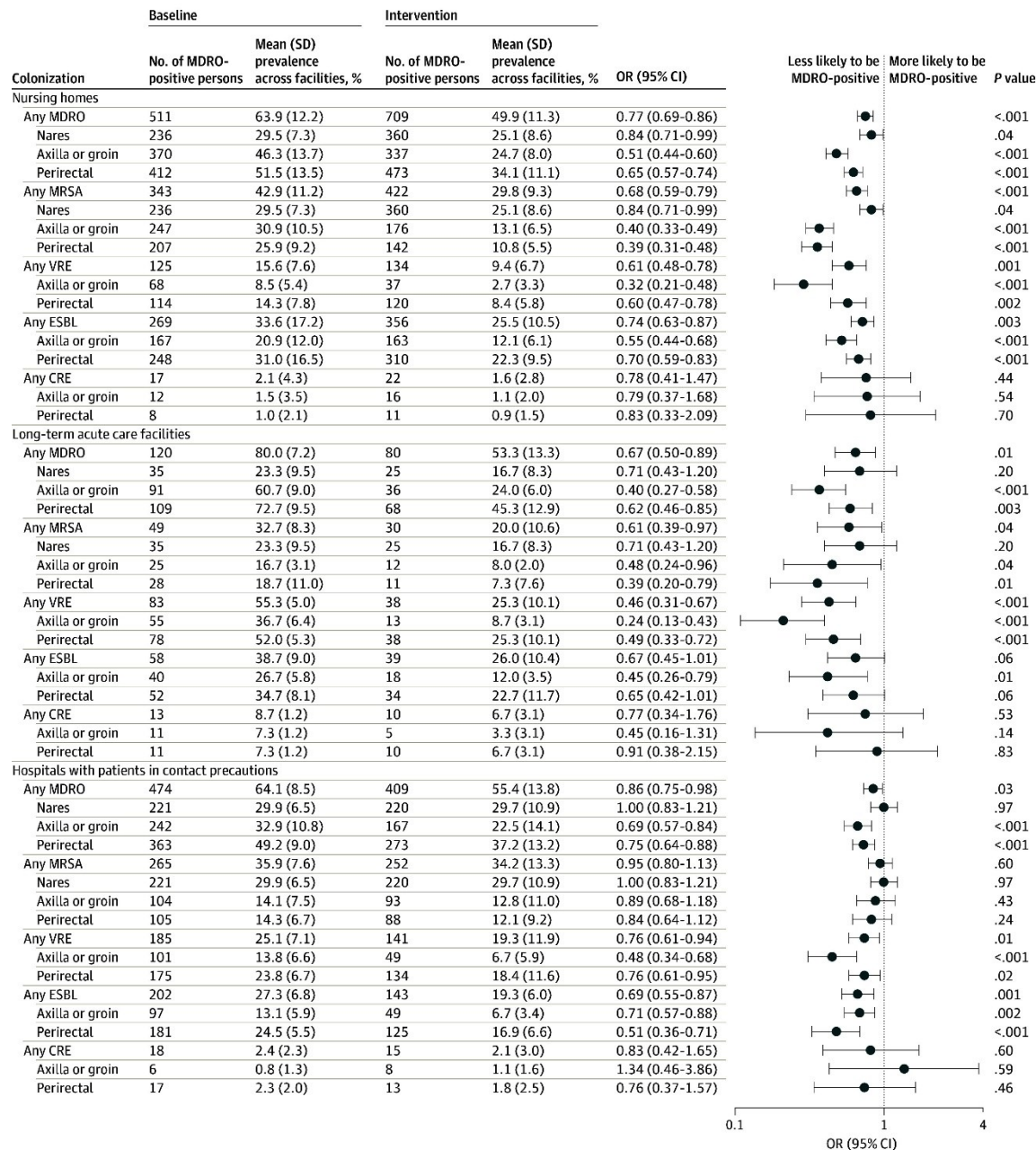
## *Residents less likely to be hospitalized*

- ✓ Overall hospitalization rate        **18% reduction**
  - 1 hospitalization prevented for every 9 residents treated
- ✓ Infection hospitalization rate       **31% reduction**
  - 1 infection-related hospitalization prevented for every 10 residents treated

**Decolonization prevents 1.9 infection-related hospitalizations *per month per 100 beds***

# SHIELD Trial

- **28-month regional intervention:** April 2017-July 2019
- **Participants:**
  - 16 nursing homes (NHs)
  - 3 long-term acute care hospitals (LTACHs)
  - 16 hospitals with high patient sharing in Orange County, CA
- **NHs and LTACHs:** universal decolonization
  - CHG antiseptic soap for routine bathing/showering
  - Nasal iodophor for 5 days on admission and every other week
- **Hospitals:** decolonize patients on contact precautions
  - Daily CHG bathing/showering
  - Nasal iodophor decolonization for 5 days
  - Support ongoing ICU CHG daily bathing



# Cost Analysis from SHIELD Trial

Infection-Related Hospitalization								
Decolonization Group	Events per 1,000 Resident Days		Unadjusted Analysis			Adjusted Analysis <sup>b</sup>		
			Clustered Hazard Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect		Clustered Hazard Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect	
	Baseline	Intervention		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value
Participant	2.31	1.94	0.60	-26.9% (-21.0, -32.4)	<0.001	0.60	-26.7% (-19.0, -34.5)	<0.001
Non-Participant	1.90	2.03	0.81			0.82		
Costs Associated with Infection-Related Hospitalization								
Decolonization Group	Costs per 1,000 Resident Days		Unadjusted Analysis			Adjusted Analysis <sup>b</sup>		
			Clustered Cost Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect		Clustered Cost Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect	
	Baseline	Intervention		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value
Participant	\$64,651	\$55,149	1.00	-26.2% (-26.0, -26.2)	<0.001	0.96	-26.8% (-26.7, -26.9)	<0.001
Non-Participant	\$55,151	\$59,327	1.36			1.31		
Deaths Associated with Infection-Related Hospitalization								
Decolonization Group	Events per 1,000 Resident Days		Unadjusted Analysis			Adjusted Analysis <sup>b</sup>		
			Clustered Hazard Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect		Clustered Hazard Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect	
	Baseline	Intervention		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value
Participant	0.29	0.25	0.62	-23.6% (-7.4, 37.0)	0.006	0.62	-23.7% (-4.5, -43.0)	0.006
Non-Participant	0.23	0.24	0.81			0.81		
Any-Cause Hospitalization								
Decolonization Group	Events per 1,000 Resident Days		Unadjusted Analysis			Adjusted Analysis <sup>b</sup>		
			Clustered Hazard Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect		Clustered Hazard Ratio	Group-By-Period Interaction Effect	
	Baseline	Intervention		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value		% Reduction (95% CI)	P-value
Participant	4.08	4.24	0.79	-7.0% (-1.6, -12.1)	0.01	0.80	-6.7% (-1.3, -11.8)	0.02
Non-Participant	3.46	3.74	0.85			0.86		

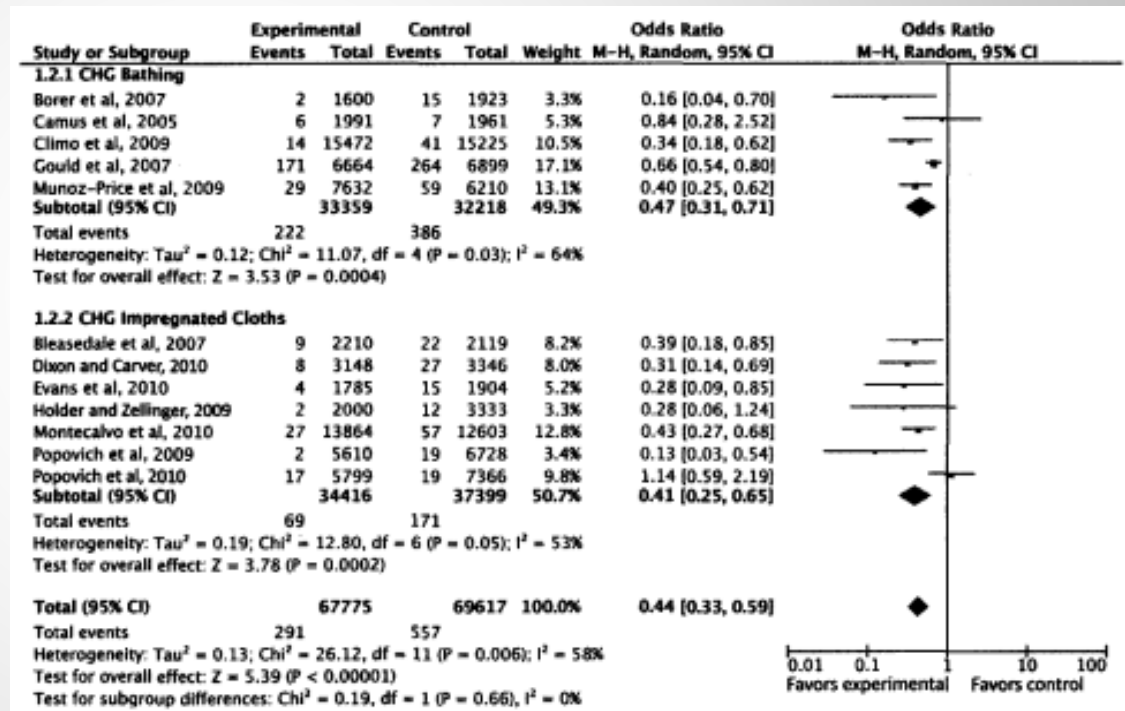


**Is there a difference in 2% wipes  
compared to 4 % solution?**

# Background Literature

## Benefits of Chlorhexidine between the two methods

- Reduces bloodstream infections (0.44 odds ratio)
- Reduces CLABSI (0.40 odds ratio)
- Reduces multidrug-resistant organism (MDRO) acquisition 4.78 vs 6.60 per 1000 patient days



Risk of Healthcare-associated bloodstream infection

# 2% Cloth Wipe vs 4% Solution

	2% CHG cloth n= 411 assessments	4% CHG solution n= 425 assessments	No bath n =54 assessments
Overall Microbial Colonization (IQR)	691 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup> (0,30)	1,627 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup> (0,265) <sup>a</sup>	8,519 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup> (10,1130) <sup>e</sup>
Arm	559 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>	1236 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>	2,336 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>
Leg	824 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>	2018 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>	14,588 CFU/cm <sup>2</sup>
Overall Chlorhexidine Concentration (IQR)	1,300.4 ppm (100,2000)	307.2 ppm (30, 200) <sup>b</sup>	32.8 ppm (0,20) <sup>f</sup>
Arm	1058.7 ppm	274.2 ppm	18.3 ppm
Leg	1543.3 ppm	340.2 ppm	47.2 ppm
Hospital Acquired Infections <sup>g</sup>	7	6 <sup>c</sup>	0
Adverse Events	0	0	0
Braden Score <sup>g</sup>	15.0	15.3 <sup>d</sup>	18.4
Antimicrobial Use (per 1000 patient days)	773.0	718.4 <sup>h</sup>	

# Adverse Effects of Chlorhexidine

- Generally well tolerated
- Skin Allergy
- Sensation of wipes

# Important Takeaway for Implementation

- Bathing at admission is key
- CHG is safe on face and hair, avoid eyes and ears
- Nasal decolonization is important
- Implementation Resources
  - AHRQ Toolkit
  - <https://www.ahrq.gov/hai/tools/abate/index.html>

# QUESTIONS?

**In Closing**



# Project Firstline Resource

## Fight Antimicrobial Resistance with Infection Control

### FIGHT ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE WITH INFECTION CONTROL

**Antimicrobial resistance** happens when germs like bacteria and fungi develop the ability to defeat the drugs designed to kill them. That means the germs are not killed and continue to grow and spread.

As a frontline healthcare worker, you play an important role in fighting antimicrobial resistance.

When you practice infection control, you stop resistant germs from:



**Entering the body** and causing infections through procedures and medical devices



**Spreading to people** from surfaces like bedrails or the hands of healthcare workers



**Moving with patients** when they are transferred between facilities



**Spreading into the community**, making them harder to control

**Infection control fights resistance by:**

Preventing new healthcare associated infections

Stopping the spread of resistant germs

Reducing the need for antibiotics or antifungals

Infection control also protects you from getting sick and decreases the risk of spreading germs to patients.

Check out Project Firstline resources to learn more about how you can protect your patients, yourself, and your community from antimicrobial resistance.

[www.cdc.gov/ProjectFirstline](http://www.cdc.gov/ProjectFirstline)

WE HAVE THE POWER TO STOP RESISTANT INFECTIONS. **TOGETHER**





# 2025 Nebraska ASAP Antimicrobial Stewardship Summit



New this year, **Antimicrobial Stewardship Foundations Track!**

Target audience: infection preventionists working in long-term care

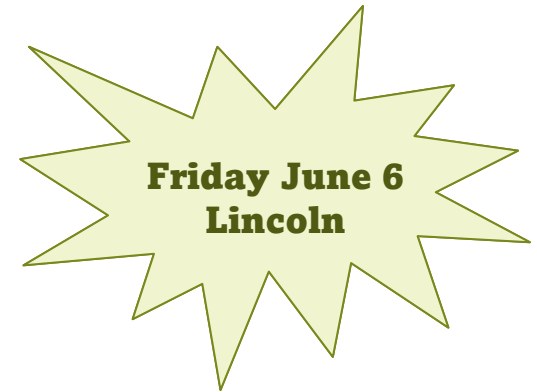
- Core Elements Workshop
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- Talking to your frontline staff and partners about stewardship and getting the support you need

[Click Here to Register! 2025 Nebraska Antimicrobial Stewardship Summit](#)



# Register Now: Workshop for Healthcare Facility Water System Safety

8 am	Welcome by Nebraska DHHS
8:15	From Plumbing to Patients: Christine Yount
8:45	Pathophysiology of Waterborne Pathogens: Richard Hankins
10:20	Water Treatment Basics: Mike Ballmer
12:20	Plumbing Basics: Jeffrey Bergers
1:20	Ensuring Safe Water: Comprehensive Strategies for Legionella Prevention in Healthcare Facilities: Jen Vogelsberg
3 pm	Uh-oh, Mitigation Approaches and Technology to Remediate When Your Water System is Implicated: Dr. Brooke Decker
4 pm	Closing: Lacey Pavlovsky



[Registration Link](#)

To register, click on or scan the QR code!



# Join Us - Upcoming ICAP Webinars

**June 12, 2025**

- 12:00 – 1:00 PM (CST), Environmental Rounding for Infection Prevention and Control

# Webinar CE Process

**1 Nursing Contact Hour is offered for attending this LIVE webinar.**

**Individual surveys must be completed for each attendee.**

Questions? Contact us at:

[nebraskaicap@nebraskamed.com](mailto:nebraskaicap@nebraskamed.com) 402-552-2881

## **Nursing Contact Hours:**

- Completion of survey is required.
  - The survey must be specific to the individual obtaining credit.  
(i.e.: 2 people cannot be listed on the same survey)
- One certificate is issued quarterly for all webinars attended
- Certificate comes directly from ICAP via email

# Infection Prevention and Control Hotline Number:

**Call 402-552-2881**

**Office Hours** are Monday – Friday

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM Central Time

**On-call hours are available for emergencies only**

Weekends and Holidays from 10:00 AM- 4:00 PM

\*Messages left outside of Office or On-call hours will be answered the next business day.

\*\*Please call the main hotline number to ensure the quickest response.