Meet the Team

Presenters:

Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF
Medical Director, Alliant Health Solutions

Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC
Patient Safety Manager, Alliant Health Solutions
Swati Gaur, MD, MBA, CMD, AGSF

MEDICAL DIRECTOR, POST-ACUTE CARE
NORTHEAST GEORGIA HEALTH SYSTEM

Dr. Swati Gaur is the medical director of New Horizons Nursing Facilities with the Northeast Georgia Health System. She is also the CEO of Care Advances Through Technology, a technology innovation company. In addition, Dr. Gaur is on the electronic medical record (EMR) transition and implementation team for the health system, providing direction to EMR entity adaption to the long-term care (LTC) environment. She has also consulted with post-acute long-term care (PALTC) companies on optimizing medical services in PALTC facilities, integrating medical directors and clinicians into the QAPI framework, and creating frameworks of interdisciplinary work in the organization. Dr. Gaur established the palliative care service line at the Northeast Georgia Health System.

She also is an attending physician in several nursing facilities. Dr. Gaur attended medical school in Bhopal, India, and started her residency in internal medicine at St. Luke’s–Roosevelt Medical Center in New York. She completed her fellowship in geriatrics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and is board certified in internal medicine, geriatrics, hospice, and palliative medicine. In addition, she earned a master's in business administration at the Georgia Institute of Technology with a concentration in technology management.
Amy Ward, MS, BSN, RN, CIC, FAPIC

Patient Safety Manager

Amy is a registered nurse with a diverse background in acute care nursing, microbiology, epidemiology and infection control. She is passionate about leading and mentoring new and future infection preventionists in their career paths and assisting them in reducing healthcare-associated infections across the continuum of care.

Amy enjoys spending time with her family and being outdoors camping, bicycling and running.

Contact: Amy.Ward@AlliantHealth.org
Thank You to Our Partners

• Georgia Department of Public Health
• University of Georgia
Learning Objectives

• Learners will be able to understand COVID-19 data and use it to inform their IP practice.
• Learners will be able to utilize the APIC guide to long-term care as a reference for policies, procedures and the IP plan.
• Learners will utilize the resources provided regularly in their IP practice.
CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home
Weighted and Nowcast Estimates in United States for 2-Week Periods in 3/19/2023 – 7/8/2023


Weighted Estimates: Variant proportions based on reported genomic sequencing results

Nowcast: Model-based projected estimates of variant proportions

WHO label | Lineage | %Total | 95%PI
--- | --- | --- | ---
Omicron | XBB.2.3 | 13.4% | 11.3-15.8%
XBB.1.9.2 | 5.6% | 4.0-7.7%
XBB.1.5.1 | 9.4% | 8.1-10.9%
XBB.1.5.68 | 1.0% | 0.6-1.6%
XBB.1.5.59 | 1.6% | 1.0-2.6%
XBB.1.5.10 | 0.8% | 0.4-1.5%
XBB.1.5.1 | 0.7% | 0.5-1.0%
XBB.1.5 | 16.1% | 13.8-18.6%
XBB.1.16.6 | 4.1% | 2.0-7.6%
XBB.1.16.1 | 10.4% | 8.4-12.8%
XBB.1.16 | 17.5% | 15.2-20.0%
XBB.1 | 3.6% | 2.5-5.1%
FE.1 | 1.3% | 0.6-2.7%
FD.2 | 0.1% | 0.0-0.3%
EU.1 | 1.1% | 0.6-1.7%
EG.5 | 13.0% | 7.5-21.1%
CH.1.1 | 0.2% | 0.1-0.4%
BO.1 | 0.0% | 0.0-0.0%
SO.1 | 0.0% | 0.0-0.6%
BA.1 | 0.0% | 0.0-0.0%
BA.2.75 | 0.0% | 0.0-0.0%
BA.2 | 0.0% | 0.0-0.0%
Other | 0.0% | 0.0-0.1%

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#variant-proportions
Wastewater Surveillance

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#wastewater-surveillance
Wastewater Surveillance

Percent change in the last 15 days

This metric shows whether virus levels have increased or decreased over the last 15 days. When levels of virus in wastewater are low, a modest increase in virus levels can appear much larger when you look at the percent change. This metric may be affected by how often wastewater plants collect samples or by environmental factors such as rainfall. Wastewater data showing the percent change in virus levels should be used along with other data such as overall levels of the virus in wastewater, historical wastewater data for that location, geographical context, and clinical cases.

Note: This metric does not show overall levels of SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases among Residents and Rate per 1,000 Resident-Weeks in Nursing Homes, by Week—United States

[Graph showing confirmed COVID-19 cases with data points for specific weeks.

Week Ending*  Count COVID-19 Cases  Rate of COVID-19 Cases
July 9  2,598  2.4]
Confirmed COVID-19 Cases among Staff and Rate per 1,000 Resident-Weeks in Nursing Homes, by Week—United States
https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_percent-covid-ed
High = > 20 new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population over the last seven days =

Universal source control
This shows the percent change in the number of new COVID-19 hospital admissions in the past week compared with the prior week. For more information on hospitalizations, see the trends page.
PIC Deaths

Percentage of all deaths due to pneumonia, influenza, and COVID-19, National Summary

- 2018-23
- Show Number of Influenza Deaths and COVID Deaths

Season: 2022-23, Week: 27
- Threshold 5.8
- Baseline 5.5
- % of Deaths due to PIC 5.5%
- Influenza Coded Deaths 5
- COVID Coded Deaths 132

MMWR Week

% of Deaths Due to PIC

# of Deaths
Resident Safety Against COVID-Related Serious Outcomes and Long COVID

Bivalent vaccine
Sustained increased protection against – ICU admissions, death
Protection against Long COVID

Therapeutics
Oral therapeutics:
- Paxlovid
  - Protection against hospitalization and death
  - Protection against Long COVID
- Lagevrio
  - Ability to dissolve
Parenteral therapeutics: Remdesivir
New recommendations for people aged ≥6 years without immunocompromise who have not yet received any COVID vaccine.

One bivalent mRNA dose
Flexible for people at higher risk of severe COVID-19: People aged ≥65 years who have already received a bivalent mRNA dose

![Diagram showing the flexibility for people at higher risk of severe COVID-19.](image-url)

- **One bivalent mRNA dose**
- **Optional additional bivalent mRNA dose**
- **At least 4 months**
COVID Vaccine Options

mRNA Vaccines – Pfizer/Moderna

Novavax – Manufactured like Influenza vaccine

Primary 1 → 3-8 W → Primary 2 → 6M → Booster
NEWS & MEDIA

Novavax Intends to Deliver Protein-based XBB COVID Vaccine as Specified in U.S. HHS Letter to COVID Manufacturers

July 13, 2023
Use of Timely Therapeutics in COVID-19

Table 2a. Therapeutic Management of Nonhospitalized Adults With Mild to Moderate COVID-19 Who Do Not Require Supplemental Oxygen

[Table content]

Infection Prevention Resource Box
Infection Prevention Resource Box

Arriving to your facility from Georgia Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) Career Pathway Initiative
Polling Question

• Have you received your resource box?
  – Yes
  – No
Infection Prevention Resource Box

Contents:
• USB drive with files
• APIC Infection Prevention Guide to Long-Term Care
• APIC Ready Reference for Microbes
• Glo Germ Kit
• Printed Signage
Jump Drive Contents

- Antibiotic Stewardship
- Cleaning and Disinfection
- Hand Hygiene
- Infection Control Signs and Education
- NHSN
- Outbreak Management
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Professional Assistance
- Refrigerator Maintenance
- Risk Assessment
Jump Drive – Antibiotic Stewardship

• Antibiotic Stewardship Document
  – List of references and resources helpful in development and review of antibiotic stewardship program
  – Clinical staff education resources, including new hire information
  – Free continuing education opportunities for clinicians
Jump Drive – Cleaning and Disinfection

- EPA Approved Disinfectants for Healthcare
- Environmental Services (EVS) - APIC Toolkit Resource
- EVS Cleaning
- Audit tool
- Housekeeping Checklist
- How to read a disinfectant label
- Infection prevention environmental rounds checklist
- STRIVE Environmental Services Training Module
- Water Management
  - CDC Water Management Toolkit
  - Guidance commissioning of water systems after prolonged shutdown or disruption of services
Jump Drive – Hand Hygiene

• Five Moments of HH Graphic
• GDPH Audit Log for HH
• Hand Hygiene Informational Resources
• WHO and CDC HH Resources
Jump Drive – Infection Control Precautions

Ready to Print Signage
- Contact
- Contact Enteric
- Droplet
- Airborne Contact
- Aerosol Contact
- Enhanced Barrier
- Resident and Family Educational Flyers for each type of precautions
- LTCF Transmission Based Precautions and Recommendations in Healthcare Settings
  - Table of requirements according to the route of transmission
  - Supply cart stocking list example
Jump Drive

• NHSN
  – Resources
  – Revised McGeer Criteria Checklist

• Outbreak Management
  – Example Outbreak Management policy
  – Notifiable Diseases and Conditions
    • Print and hang at your desk for easy reference
Jump Drive – PPE

- PPE Audit Tool
- PPE Resources
- Respiratory Protection Program (RPP)
  - One stop shop to create RPP documentation binder
- RPP Resources
  - OSHA Fit testing process and requirements
  - User seal check instructions
  - Video demonstrations
Jump Drive – Professional Assistance

Contact information

– APIC
– Georgia DPH IP Team
– Georgia Project Firstline
– Georgia Infection Prevention Network (GIPN)
– Long Term Care Certification (LTC-CIP)
Jump Drive – Refrigerator Maintenance

• Medication refrigerator and freezer temperature log
• Nourishment refrigerator and freezer temperature log
• Cleaning and monitoring of refrigerators, freezers, ice machines example policy
Jump Drive – Risk Assessment

Fillable Infection Prevention Risk Assessment with risk ranking for prioritization

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>Impact on Resident/Staff</th>
<th>Capacity to Detect</th>
<th>Readiness to Prevent</th>
<th>YEAR: 20__</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Score</td>
<td>High Med Low None</td>
<td>High Med Low None</td>
<td>Poor Fair Good</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 2 1 0</td>
<td>3 2 1 0</td>
<td>3 2 1 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Sample Lack Hand Hygiene Compliance**: 3
- **External Factors (Community, Demographics)**: Identify other risk factors in the community based on geographic location (coast, mountains etc.)
  - Risk of TB in the community: 0
  - Risk of emerging infectious disease in the community: 0
  - Other (specify): ___________

- **Facility Related Factors**
  - **Facility Associated Infection(s)**
    - Symptomatic urinary tract infection (SUTI): 0
    - Influenza like illness: 0
    - Pneumonia: 0

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APIC Guide to Long-Term Care

- Included in IP Resource Box that will be arriving at skilled nursing facilities throughout Georgia.
- Intended to aid in developing an evidence-based infection prevention and control program.
- Complete with sample policies, signage, audit tools and more.
Chapters

- Infection Prevention in Long Term Care
- Regulatory Compliance
- Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Reporting
- Antimicrobial Stewardship
- Standard and Transmission Based Precautions
- Medical Needs and Treatment Modalities
- Vaccinations
- Occupational Health
- Environmental Services
- Water Management Program
- Emergency and Disaster Preparedness
- Interdisciplinary and Support Services
- Appendix
Development of Policies and Procedures

• Policies should be based on current scientific evidence, best practice guidelines and expert consensus documents.
  – Utilize APIC Guide to LTC chapters and references in policy development.
• Policies and procedures (P&P) should be reviewed annually and revised as needed.
• Documentation must reflect the review process.
• Infection preventionist should review policies and procedures involving direct resident care, placement or manipulation of medical devices, etc.
Policies and Procedures

• Infection Prevention-owned policies
  – IP manual or individual policies
  – Infection prevention plan
  – Surveillance system to identify infectious and communicable diseases
  – Process for reporting incidents of communicable diseases
  – Employee health to include a process for restricting staff when necessary and respiratory protection program
  – Staff training in IP core practices
  – IP Practices such as hand hygiene

• IP should review policies owned by other departments to ensure evidence-based
  – Environmental cleaning and disinfection
  – Nursing care policies (catheter care, central line maintenance and infusion, etc.)
Infection Prevention Risk Assessment

Tools:
- CDC
- Jump Drive

Completion of Risk Assessment
- Complete annually and when events or situations dictate
  - Multidisciplinary
    - Include: EVS, Maintenance/Facilities, DON, Administrator, therapy, medical director
  - Gather data to inform preparedness and likelihood
    - Surveillance data
    - Risk Events (flooding, safety events, outbreaks)
    - Policies and Procedures
    - Audit data
Ready Reference for Microbes

This quick reference guide is intended to provide straightforward information for IPs.

Quick Facts are available for common pathogens such as C. diff. and influenza.
Chapters

- Bacteria
- Common commensals
- Fungi
- Parasites
- Viruses
- Bioterrorism agents
- Antimicrobial therapies
Case Study – Using the Ready Reference For Microbes

You receive a new laboratory report for Mr. Jones, who is a resident of your facility. He has a new urine culture that grew out >100k cfu/ml of *Alcaligenes faecalis*.

You realize this is a bacteria you are not familiar with and would like to learn more.
Alcaligenes faecalis

- You review the index of Ready Reference for Microbes and find this bacteria in the text on page 5.
Alcaligenes faecalis

- Gram-negative rod found in the environment (soil, water)
- Healthcare-associated infections include septicemia, bacteremia, ocular or ear infections, pancreatic abscesses, pneumonia and urinary tract infection (UTI)
- Modes of transmission
  - Environmental contact
  - Contaminated solutions or instruments
Actions to Take

• Isolation precautions?
  – Review the 2007 Guideline for Isolation Precautions

• Root cause analysis
  – Review for recent urological procedures or instrumentation
    • If recent hospitalization or urology visit, communicate findings with the provider or hospital IP
Quick Facts: Antibiograms and Antimicrobial Stewardship

• Review these sections and discuss with the medical director and pharmacist

• Do you utilize an antibiogram?
  – Request from the local health department for region
  – Request from referring hospital(s)
Glow Germ Kit

- Hand hygiene
- Aseptic technique
- Environmental surface cleaning
- Cross contamination
- Food preparation
Hand Hygiene Training

https://youtu.be/h-O279tiR3s
Environmental Cleaning Training with Glo Germ

- Apply a small amount of glo-germ powder or lotion to high-touch surface(s)
  - Ensure the surface is non-porous
- Use UV light to verify simulated germs are visible and note the areas of application
- Allow for staff to clean and disinfect the area as they normally would
- Use UV light to review areas where simulated germs were applied to visualize how effective the cleaning techniques were
Respiratory Protection Resource Box

Contents

• 3M FT-30 Fit Test Apparatus
  – Hood with collar
  – Nebulizers and solutions
  – Laminated user instructions from manufacturer
  – GDPH pocket guides with OSHA regulations

N-95 Fit Testing

• Annual N-95 fit testing is still necessary despite the end of the public health emergency, so facilities are prepared to safely manage respiratory threats.
Use These Resources to Study for Your Certification

Certification options:
• A-IPC
• LTC-CIP
• CIC

Learn more about the requirements for each [here](#).
Questions?
Alliant Health Solutions Resources


https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/infection-control/
Thank you!
Consult with the DPH Team! We are here to help!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State Region/Districts</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North (Rome, Dalton, Gainesville, Athens) Districts 1-1, 1-2, 2, 10</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov">Sue.bunnell@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-967-0582)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta Metro (Cobb-Douglas, Fulton, Clayton, Lawrenceville, DeKalb, LaGrange)</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov">Teresa.Fox@dph.ga.gov</a> (256-293-9994) <a href="mailto:Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov">Renee.Miller@dph.ga.gov</a> (678-357-4797)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Districts 3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 3-5, 4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central (Dublin, Macon, Augusta, &amp; Columbus) Districts 5-1, 5-2, 6, 7</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov">Theresa.Metro-Lewis@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-967-0589) <a href="mailto:Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov">Karen.Williams13@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-596-1732)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southwest (Albany, Valdosta) Districts 8-1, 8-2</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov">Connie.Stanfill1@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-596-1940)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast (Savannah, Waycross) Districts 9-1, 9-2</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov">Lynn.Reynolds@dph.ga.gov</a> (804-514-8756)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backup/Nights/Weekends</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov">Joanna.Wagner@dph.ga.gov</a> (404-430-6316)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank You for Your Time!
Contact the AHS Patient Safety Team

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Save the Date

SNF and Medical Directors Office Hours:
August 18, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET

ALF and PCH
July 28, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET
August 25, 2023 | 11 a.m. ET
Thanks Again...

- Georgia Department of Public Health
- University of Georgia
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