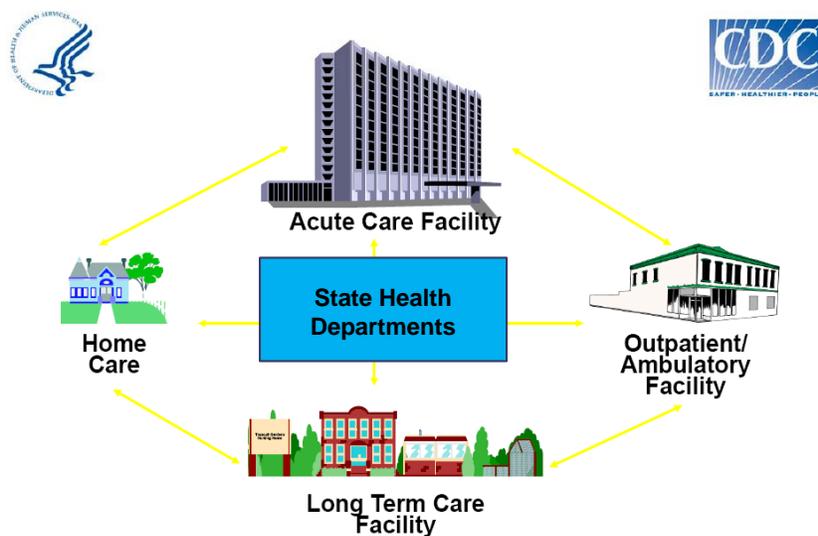


Successful Strategies for Infection Prevention in Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes

Introduction and Welcome

Continuum of Care



Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAIs)

- Definition:
 - Infections that patients/residents acquire during the course of receiving treatment for other conditions within a healthcare setting
 - Nosocomial infections - past language
- Categorized by:
 - Pathogen
 - Example: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)
 - Procedure-associated
 - Example: surgical site infection (SSI)
 - Device-associated
 - Example: catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI)

Evolving Role of Health Department in Infection Prevention

- The health department works with many types of facilities including hospitals, nursing homes (NHs), assisted living facilities (ALFs), and other healthcare/residential settings
- Local health departments (LHD)
 - LHD epidemiologists and communicable disease (CD) nurses have built relationships with facilities in their community by:
 - Receiving communicable disease and outbreak information
 - Providing outbreak and infection prevention practice guidance
 - Helping provide education and resources

Evolving Role of Health Department in Infection Prevention

- Virginia Department of Health (VDH)
 - VDH nurse epidemiologist had focused on HAIs
 - Guidance for HAI outbreaks and infection prevention practices to facilities and local health department staff
 - Hepatitis B/C outbreaks
 - Blood glucose monitoring practices
 - Educational opportunities for NHs, ALFs, and inspectors
 - HAI-related reporting regulations
 - Reporting began in 2008 for central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) in adult intensive care units in acute care hospitals
 - HAI Advisory Committee established

Why and how has VDH's role changed regarding infection prevention?

Impetus for Formal Virginia HAI Program

- Federal movement on HAI prevention
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS)
 - Reduced payment for a growing number of HAIs
 - Use pay-for-reporting and pay-for-performance structure
 - Fiscal year 2009 Omnibus spending bill
 - Required states to develop HAI prevention plans
 - American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
 - Provided money to states for HAI prevention
 - Health and Human Services (HHS) Action Plan on HAIs
- Healthy People 2020 defines national health objectives
 - HAI - new topic area
- HAI legislation increasing in other states and in Virginia

Current HAI Program Goals

- Funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Program goals
 - Build HAI program capacity - create HAI Program and hire staff in the state health department
 - Hired HAI Program Coordinator and HAI Epidemiologist
 - Enhance surveillance
 - Focus on acute care facilities in 2009-2011
 - Validate central line-associated bloodstream data collected in CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN)
 - Pilot surgical site infection (SSI) surveillance through NHSN
 - Form prevention collaboratives and provide education
 - Acute care collaborative and nursing home collaborative

Impetus for Shifting Focus to ALFs and NHs

Ultimate goal: To improve patient/resident outcomes across the continuum of care

- Virginia
 - Outbreaks in ALFs and NHs
 - Strongly suggested by acute care infection preventionists (IPs) when the HAI program first explored Virginia's infection prevention needs
 - Virginia ALF and NH infection prevention needs assessment
 - Identified need for education and sharing of information
 - Increasing interest and support of Virginia ALFs, NHs, and long-term care organizations/partners
- Nationally
 - CDC, CMS, and HHS
 - Developing guidance and tools for long-term care facilities

Future Projects for VDH HAI Program

- Continue to disseminate toolkit (binder / DVD):
 - Standardized set of infection prevention resources
 - Provide to ALF and NH staff, applicable local health department staff, and applicable licensing facility staff
- Nursing home prevention collaborative
- Infection prevention needs assessment report
- Website development
- Continue to strengthen partnerships between the health department, all healthcare facilities, and the public

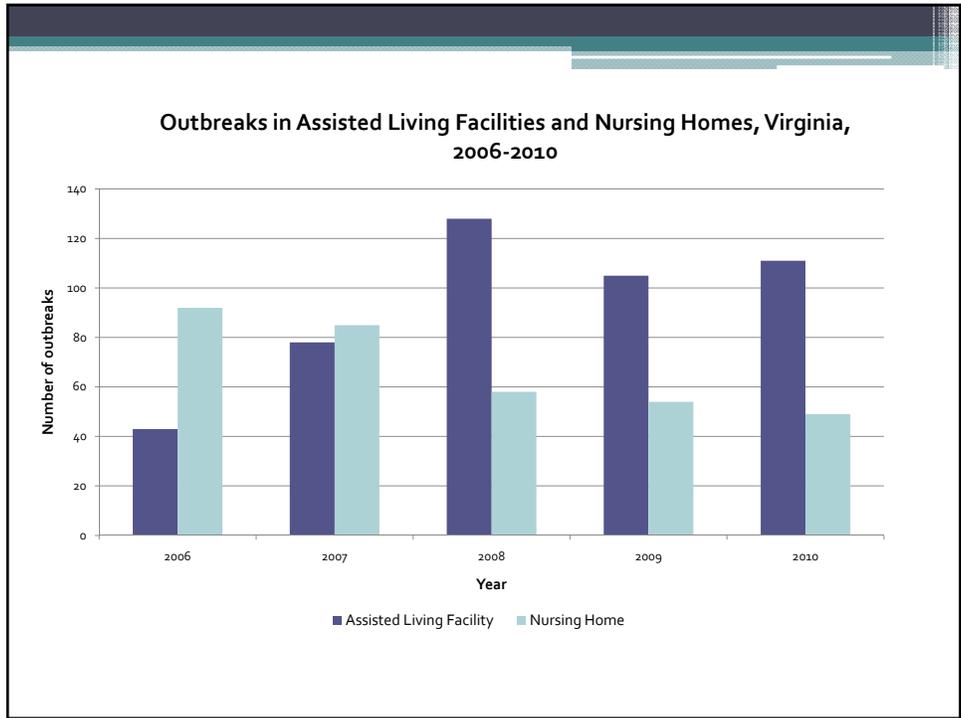
Partnering with the Health Department: How the Health Department Can Help

- Disease reporting
- Disease and infection prevention-related questions, including resident transfer to/from your facility
- Outbreak investigation:
 - Help identify the source of the problem and control the spread of disease
 - Collect information about ill and well persons
 - Coordinate specimen testing with state lab
 - Recommend steps to stop outbreak and reduce the risk of disease

Partnering with the Health Department: Ongoing Availability

- How to contact:
 - Call local health department for city/county in which your facility is located
 - www.vdh.virginia.gov/lhd
- When to contact:
 - Suspect or confirm resident has a reportable disease
 - Suspect an outbreak may be occurring
 - Outbreak: greater than expected level of disease activity
 - Question about a disease-related topic

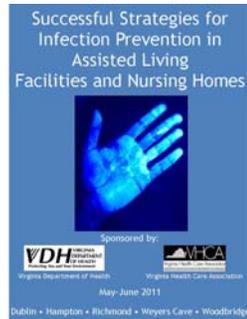




Virginia ALF and NH Outbreaks

- Norovirus
 - 78% of ALF outbreaks, 69% of NH outbreaks
- Influenza
 - 9% of ALF outbreaks, 13% of NH outbreaks
- Examples of other conditions causing outbreaks:
 - *Acinetobacter*, *Clostridium difficile*, hepatitis B, rhinovirus, rotavirus, scabies

Successful Strategies for Infection Prevention in Assisted Living Facilities and Nursing Homes Toolkit



How to Access Additional Resources

- VDH website: <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/Epidemiology/Surveillance/HAI/ANRresources.htm>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov
- Websites, guidelines, articles on:
 - Clinical guidelines and surveillance definitions
 - Disease-specific guidance (bloodborne pathogens, norovirus, tuberculosis, influenza, multidrug-resistant organisms, urinary tract infections)
 - Environmental cleaning and disinfection
 - Hand hygiene
 - Immunizations and employee health
 - Isolation precautions
 - Licensure and reporting regulations

Infection Prevention
Resources for NHs and ALFs



A Collaborative Effort



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



Thank you!

Questions?

Andrea Alvarez
Virginia Department of Health
Healthcare-Associated Infections Program Coordinator
804-864-8097
Andrea.Alvarez@vdh.virginia.gov