

Onsite Infection Prevention and Control Assessment

Frequently Asked Questions

➤ Why is the Virginia Department of Health asking to visit your healthcare facility?

The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) is following best practice guidelines recommended in the [Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms \(MDROs\)](#).

The goal of the visit is to enhance infection prevention and control (IPC) competency and practice at healthcare facilities to contain the spread of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistant organisms.

➤ What are the objectives of the onsite infection prevention and control assessment (IPCA)?

The objectives are to do the following:

- Identify IPC gaps occurring in facilities.
 - Use standardized tools and a systemized approach.
- Provide both immediate and comprehensive feedback to facilities.
 - Create a follow-up plan for repeat visits to assess quality improvement projects.
- Assess IPC as an unbiased third party.
 - Gain insight into IPC practices to determine the scope of investigation response activities.
- Identify educational needs in Virginia facilities.
 - Strengthen collaboration between public health and healthcare partners.

➤ Could your facility benefit from an assessment of infection prevention and control practices?

Yes. The IPCA team works to facilitate discussions with leadership in the healthcare facility to assess infection prevention practices and provide infection prevention tools and resources. Additionally, the IPCA team will identify, discuss and mitigate infection prevention gaps by interviewing, observing and educating frontline staff.

➤ Who are the IPCA team members?

Depending on the scope and size of the facility, the team conducting the initial assessment will consist of two to six people, comprised of staff from VDH central office and local health departments.

➤ How long is the IPCA visit?

The onsite visit typically lasts less than a day.

➤ What is the process for the IPCA visit?

Before the site visit, the healthcare facility will:

- Identify a primary point of contact (e.g., Infection Preventionist, appropriate nursing leadership)

- Complete an infection prevention and control self-assessment
 - VDH uses a standardized tool for the assessment. Certain sections might be selected for completion. The health department will provide further guidance.

During or before the site visit, VDH will:

- Discuss the assessment tool with you

During the site visit, VDH will:

- Perform direct observations of facility practices

After the visit, VDH will:

- Provide written recommendations, summarizing strengths and recommendations for infection prevention and control improvement
- Provide evidence-based resources
- Schedule a follow-up discussion to review implemented changes

➤ **Will we receive a report of the VDH findings?**

Yes. The facility will receive a report of the IPCA visit within two to three weeks following the assessment. The report will summarize strong facility practices and highlight opportunities for improvement. The summary report will include hyperlinked resources and guidance to supplement your facility's infection prevention program.

➤ **Who can I contact for additional information?**

For more information, please contact the VDH Healthcare-Associated Infections/Antimicrobial Resistance Program by phone at 804-864-8141 or email at HAI@vdh.virginia.gov.