

2019 Summary: Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Group

The **Virginia HAI Advisory Group** is a voluntary, statewide, multidisciplinary group that coordinates the efforts of the Commonwealth's HAI stakeholders to align strategies, share information and resources, and produce synergies that will accelerate statewide and individual institutional progress in providing safe, high quality, healthcare for Virginia residents by preventing HAIs and antimicrobial resistance (AR).



The group includes persons with expertise in the surveillance, prevention, and control of healthcare-associated infections, including representation from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), Health Quality Innovators (HQI), the Virginia Quality Innovation Network – Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO), the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA), the Association of Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology – Virginia Chapter (APIC-VA), healthcare providers, infection preventionists, pharmacists, consumers, and physician champions.

This document outlines 2019 work of the Virginia HAI Advisory Group.

Flu Vaccination Press Event, November

At an [event](#) in Richmond sponsored by VDH, state and local health leaders joined together to highlight the importance of the influenza vaccine, especially for healthcare workers, and to receive a flu vaccine themselves. Speakers included Secretary of Health and Human Resources Dr. Daniel Carey, and Virginia State Health Commissioner Dr. M. Norman Oliver. Also present at the event to promote the flu vaccine were Mayor Levar Stoney and Richmond Ambulance Authority CEO Chip Decker. The public health messages were spread widely by partner agencies and the media.

Virginia Acute Care Antibiotic Stewardship Honor Roll

The Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Group developed the Virginia Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll for Acute Care Hospitals. The goal of the Honor Roll is to recognize facilities meeting each of the CDC seven core elements of hospital antimicrobial stewardship programs and to encourage facilities to enhance existing programs. In addition, the honor roll gives the Virginia HAI Advisory Group a mechanism to promote statewide initiatives and to highlight participating facilities. 35 Virginia acute care hospitals have received Bronze, Silver or Gold status in the 2019 [Virginia Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll](#).

Bridge the Gap Specialized Training for LTC Infection Preventionists, February

The Virginia HAI Advisory Group partnered with APIC VA to conduct two trainings to prepare long-term care infection preventionists meet compliance with F882 of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Requirements for Participation for LTC facilities. These trainings covered the basics of an infection prevention program, offered the participants 12 continuing education units (CEUs) and a certificate of completion that meets the F882 requirement for trained infection prevention staff. Approximately 180 LTC staff participated in the two educational events.

Promoting U. S. Antibiotic Awareness Week 2019, November

Initiatives were developed and implemented during U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week to promote safe antibiotic use and antimicrobial stewardship.

- ◆ **Social Media Posts:** VHHA, HQI and VDH crafted and posted unique social media messages, using graphics that were developed for the Advisory Group for U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week. Each organization then shared each other's social media posts, promoting the message that the Advisory Group is unified in the effort to fight antimicrobial resistance.
- ◆ **Health Equity:** Partnered with VDH-Office of Health Equity to offer a webinar to small rural hospitals.
- ◆ **Promote CDC Updates:** Promoted updated CDC Hospital Antimicrobial Stewardship Core Elements and updated CDC AR Threat Report.

Triple Threat: How a Health System Implemented the NHSN AUR Module

The Virginia HAI Advisory Group hosted a one-hour recorded webinar for hospitals to learn strategies for reporting data on antimicrobial use and resistance data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A panel of experts shared best practices from implementing the NHSN Antimicrobial Use and Resistance (AUR) Module. Presenters included Rebecca J. Collins, PharmD, BCPS, Farrukh A. Syed, PharmD and Susan D. Moeslein, MSA, BSN, RN, ACM, CIC.

Regional Antibigram

Statewide and regional cumulative antibiograms were created for the first time in 2019 to develop a better understanding of antimicrobial susceptibility and resistance among bacterial isolates in Virginia. The Advisory Group recognizes the importance of this antibiogram in helping small hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, physician practices and other facilities choose the appropriate antibiotics based on regional susceptibility since these facilities often do not have enough clinical isolates to create an antibiogram. The second annual regional antibiogram is in production as of the end of 2019.

For more information, visit: <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/haiar/vhag/>