

Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Group

2022 Consensus Statement Promoting Healthcare Facility Participation in Proactive Infection Prevention and Control Assessments

The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasized the importance of strengthening and maintaining infection prevention and control (IPC) capacity in healthcare facilities across the continuum of care. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH) Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Program is equipped to conduct **free** onsite IPC assessments using standard tools to proactively evaluate and improve infection prevention programs in focused healthcare settings (i.e., dialysis facilities, long-term acute care hospitals, skilled nursing facilities/nursing homes, and outpatient settings). In addition, proactive IPC assessments are being conducted by the Department of Social Services and Health Quality Innovators in assisted living facilities and adult day care centers, and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services in behavioral health settings. Robust IPC programs can help facilities save money and improve patient/resident outcomes. IPC assessments conducted with the VDH HAI/AR Program are **voluntary** and are **not punitive or regulatory**.

The Virginia HAI Advisory Group strongly recommends that healthcare facilities from focused settings consider participating in a proactive IPC assessment. This recommendation is intended to support healthcare facilities by helping enhance IPC capacity, strengthen collaborative relationships between VDH and healthcare facilities, and provide guidance and resources to address areas identified for improvement.

Proactive IPC assessments yield many benefits including:

- Immediate feedback during the assessment
- Written report with the facility's strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Tailored references and educational resources
- Further opportunity to discuss strategies and activities through follow-up
- Preparation for future visits with licensing, accreditation, or other regulatory organizations

The following member organizations are in support of this statement:



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES



Additional information:

- VDH Infection Control Assessment and Response [website](#)
 - [Frequently asked questions about VDH proactive IPC assessments](#)
 - [Request a proactive IPC assessment](#)
- CDC [Infection Control Assessment Tools](#)