



The Virginia Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Group (VHAG) 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).

2025 VHAG SUMMARY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

VHAG Stakeholders

Thank you to all the stakeholders who presented at VHAG quarterly meetings in 2025. Your active participation has been invaluable in driving meaningful conversations and fostering collaboration. By sharing your organization's goals, priorities, and key activities, you've not only provided critical insights but also sparked important dialogue that has helped us align our collective efforts more effectively.

- **APIC Virginia Chapter** – Dana Chapman
- **Carilion Clinic** – Lauren McDaniel
- **Health Quality Innovation Network (HQIN)** – Sheila McLean
- **Henrico, Parham & Retreat Doctor's Hospital (HCA)** – Rebeccah Collins & Heather Minton
- **IPRO Mid-Atlantic CMS QIN-QIO** – Teresa Lubowski
- **Sentara Health** – Joel Bundy & Karen McGoldrick
- **VCU Infection Control & Epidemiology** – Michelle Doll
- **Virginia Department of Health – Fairfax County Health Department** – Benjamin Schwartz
- **Virginia Department of Health – Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Program** – Shaina Bernard, Andrea Chapman, Smrithi Chikkala, Victoria Geissinger, Carolyn Kiefer, Angela Spleen, Ginger Vanhoozer, Jacqueline Williams
- **Virginia Department of Health – Office of Licensure & Certification – Division of Acute Services** – Douglas Middlebrooks
- **Virginia Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS)** – Katelin Gali
- **Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA)** – Rachel Pryor

Annual Priority Workgroup

In 2025, the Annual Priority Workgroup focused on improving communication as a strategy to combat multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs) across Virginia, recognizing MDRO prevention as a shared state and national priority. More than 30 stakeholders were convened throughout the year to identify barriers to MDRO communication, particularly during transitions of care, and to prioritize practical improvement strategies. Key accomplishments include development of an MDRO Communications Resource Guide to support hospitals and long-term care facilities with shared definitions, infection prevention recommendations, and communication best practices, along with progress by the Private Lab Education subgroup to improve alignment and understanding. A subset of the Annual Priority Workgroup will continue meeting in 2026 focusing on electronic tools and regional collaboration for improved communication.

Safe Antibiotic Stewardship Innovators (SASI) Workgroup

The SASI workgroup continued its efforts to promote optimal antimicrobial use. The focus in 2025 was on nursing home education and antimicrobial use and resistance data. This year's accomplishments include:

- Participating in U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week
- Gaining feedback from committee members on National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) antibiogram functions and potential statewide uses

Infection Prevention (IP) Education Workgroup

In 2025, the IP Education Workgroup celebrated two years of progress with the Virginia Infection Prevention & Control Training Alliance (VIPTA). The VIPTA website and monthly bulletin are your one-stop-shops for infection prevention and control resources in Virginia. We're excited to share this year's milestones for VIPTA:

- Bulletin subscribership increased by 37%
- Welcomed over 14,000 views to the VIPTA website
- Shared 26 IPC-related guidance and regulation updates
- Celebrated 12 individuals/teams for their work in infection prevention
- Partnered with stakeholders to feature new training resources every month
- Shared 113 IPC-related events on the VIPTA calendar

