



The Council for Outbreak Response: Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial-Resistant Pathogens

Healthcare-associated Infections (HAIs) including antimicrobial-resistant (AR) pathogens cause hundreds of thousands of illnesses and deaths among U.S. patients each year. Despite significant progress, patients still experience preventable harms in the context of outbreaks and other adverse events that stem from emerging infectious diseases with potential for healthcare transmission, unsafe healthcare practices, contaminated drugs, and medical devices.

Consistent and coordinated approaches to outbreak detection, response, investigation, and control are needed to speed up detection of new threats, reporting outbreaks to public health, developing tools to support outbreak investigation, stop outbreaks from spreading, and inform prevention activities. To address these needs, CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion has funded the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) to co-lead the **Council for Outbreak Response: HAI/AR (CORHA)**.

MISSION, VISION, AND MEMBERSHIP

MISSION

To improve practices and policies at the local, state, and national levels for detection, investigation, control, and prevention of HAI/AR outbreaks across the healthcare continuum, including emerging infections and other risks with potential for healthcare transmission.

VISION

Public health and healthcare collaborating effectively to protect patients and prevent harms from HAI/AR outbreaks.

MEMBERSHIP

CORHA is led by a Governance Committee with members from ASTHO, CSTE, CDC, and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Additional CORHA member organizations include the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL).

STRATEGY AND WORKGROUPS

The Council developed a Strategic Map and identified the following priorities: Supporting standardized approaches to outbreak detection and reporting; Supporting consistent and coordinated approaches to investigation and control; Fostering a posture of responsiveness among the practice community; and Strengthening CORHA's effectiveness and sustainability.

To address the Central Challenge to 'Build Capacity for Public Health and Healthcare to Improve Outbreak Detection, Response and Prevention,' CORHA manages the following workgroups:

- **The Detection and Response Workgroup** works to identify standard definitions for outbreaks and adverse events as well as thresholds and best practices for outbreak detection and reporting, as well as support consistent, coordinated, and effective approaches to outbreak investigation and control.
- **The Laboratory Workgroup** works to promote and support improvement of laboratory response to healthcare-associated infection outbreaks.
- **The Policy Workgroup** works to address legal and policy considerations related to HAI/AR outbreaks.

SUMMARY

CORHA is a multidisciplinary collaboration of national associations and federal agencies working together since 2015 to improve methods to detect, investigate, control, and prevent HAI/AR outbreaks. Council member representatives bring expertise in healthcare epidemiology and infection prevention, environmental health, public health laboratory activities and HAI/AR reporting and regulation at the local, state and federal levels.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact info@corha.org and visit the [CORHA website \(www.corha.org\)](http://www.corha.org).