

# OPEN OFFICE HOURS

## Infection Prevention focused calls for Hospitals – August 28, 2024!

Thank you to everyone who joined us this week! Please know that we are available for any questions or concerns. Double check that the next call scheduled for September 25, 2024 is on your calendar, you'll use the same zoom link every month! If you would like to submit a question or suggest a discussion topic for next month's discussion ahead of time, please email [lfitzgerald@kfmc.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@kfmc.org).

### **August Spotlight:** [Guarding Health: Elevating the Role of Infection Prevention in Healthcare Construction](#) (slides & links to resources)

- Presented by Linda Van Hoecke, Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Section, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

### **KS HAN:**

- The Kansas Health Alert Network, visit the site to learn about KS-HAN and how request to receive alerts. From this site you can also access recent alerts that have been set out: <https://www.kdhe.ks.gov/801/Kansas-Health-Alert-Network-KS-HAN>

### **Vaccines:**

#### **COVID-19 Vaccines**

- [KS-HAN from Kansas Immunization Program regarding COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines in the United States \(Updated 8-23-24\)](#)

#### **RSV Vaccines**

- <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/billing-medicare-respiratory-vaccines.pdf>

### **KDHE HAI/AR Section Updates:**

- Influenza recommendations have been updated to align with CDC recommendations.
- KDHE recommendations on home isolation are as follows (updated 5/22/24):
- **Influenza Control of Cases**
  - For each person hospitalized with a case, droplet precautions shall be followed for seven days following onset of illness or for the duration of the illness if the case is in an immune-compromised patient.
  - For each person with a case shall remain in home isolation for seven days following onset of illness or for the duration of illness if the case is immune compromised, except when seeking medical care.
- You can view the complete [MEMORANDUM](#) here.



- Additional guidance can be found at CDC: [Prevention Strategies for Seasonal Influenza in Healthcare Settings | CDC](#).
- Looking for more information on Infection Prevention, reach out to HAI/AR team!
  - Email: [kdhe.haiar@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.haiar@ks.gov)
  - Request form: <https://forms.gle/nDsc1jh46TLMKX67>

### NHSN Tips:

- **Influenza Annual Survey data collection begins October 1.**
  - Define your process for tracking employees, independent practitioners, students, volunteers, trainees, and other contract staff's vaccination status prior to October 1.
  - You may enter data into NHSN weekly, monthly or wait until the conclusion of defined data collect period (10/1/24-3/31/25), but keep in mind with each update you will need enter totals into the sheet, as it will not add to previous entered data, it replaces what was previously entered.
  - [CDC NHSN Influenza Vaccination Summary Reporting FAQs](#)
- Hospital Respiratory Data to NHSN-begins 11/1/2024
  - [Hospital Respiratory Reporting webpage-Resources: Forms, Templates & Education!](#)

### Open Discussion Follow up:

- **COVID-19 & healthcare employees returning to work**
  - [Infection Control Guidance: SARS-CoV-2 \(All Healthcare Settings\)](#)
  - [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#)
  - [CDC: Mitigating Staff Shortages webpage](#)
- **High-Consequence Infectious Diseases or Special Pathogens plans**
  - <https://apic.org/policypro/> was recommended by a facility (it is paid subscription thru APIC, but they have found it valuable for multiple policies)
  - ASPR TRACIE links to the Minnesota Dept of Health's HCID toolbox for frontline facilities: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/index.html>
- **Employee Illness Tracking:** if anyone has a good employee illness tracking tool & willing to share, send to [lfitzgerald@kfmc.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@kfmc.org) & I will forward.
- **Tracking student & contract staff influenza vaccinations:** if you have a successful method and willing to share insight, please contact [lfitzgerald@kfmc.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@kfmc.org) & I will connect you or pass on information on the requestee.



- Chat response: *I have to clear all students for job shadowing, so we track that when they arrive and keep it in an excel document. The contract providers is also an excel doc, and I get help with our specialty clinic and surgery managers to collect that info.*

**Upcoming Educational Opportunities:**

- The Kansas City APIC chapter is hosting a fall Infection Prevention conference on October 18, [GKC Educational Conference Registration](#)  
**\*\*Hot off the press!! early bird registration has been extended to 9/15/2024!**
- **APIC CAH Scholarship-** [Applications are open through September 13](#) for the 2025 scholarship opportunity. Learn more and apply on the [APIC website](#).

**APIC, Join a chapter!**

- **APIC Chapter 009- Wichita Area:** Next meeting, September 17, 2024. For more information contact <https://community.apic.org/wichitaarea/home>
- **APIC Chapter 031- Greater Kansas City:** Next meeting, September 10, 2024. For more visit their website: <https://community.apic.org/greaterkansascity/home>
- **APIC Chapter 115-Heart of America:** Next meeting, September 3, 2024. For more information contact the chapter Secretary, Lacy Bowman ([lharelson@kumc.edu](mailto:lharelson@kumc.edu))

We welcome questions and discussion topic requests in advance, please contact [lfitzgerald@kfmc.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@kfmc.org) if you have items for September’s call.



**Brenda Davis**  
Quality Improvement Consultant

[bdavis@kfmc.org](mailto:bdavis@kfmc.org)



**Brenda Groves**  
Quality Improvement Consultant

[bgroves@kfmc.org](mailto:bgroves@kfmc.org)



**Kim Byers**  
Quality Improvement Consultant

[kbyers@kfmc.org](mailto:kbyers@kfmc.org)



**Loretta Fitzgerald**  
Quality Improvement Consultant

[lfitzgerald@kfmc.org](mailto:lfitzgerald@kfmc.org)

