




Nebraska Infection  
Control Network

# OUTBREAK MANAGEMENT

## LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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# Objectives

- ▶ Benefits of Working With Your Local Health Department
  - ▶ Building Connections and Relationships
  - ▶ Protecting the Community
  - ▶ BLOC Grant
  - ▶ ICAR Assessments
  - ▶ Strike Team
  - ▶ Questions
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# Benefits of Working with Your Local Health Department

- Local Health Departments (LHD) promote and protect the health of people and the communities where they live and work – [NACCHO.org](http://NACCHO.org)
- National Association of County and City Health Officials – represents the 3,000 local health departments in the United States.
- Mission is “...to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.” – [NACCHO.org](http://NACCHO.org)

# Local Health Department Services

- Immunizations
- Food Safety
- Infectious Disease
- Chronic Disease
- Injury and Violence Prevention
- Environmental Health
- Maternal and Child Health
- Emergency Preparedness
- Tobacco Control

NACCHO.org

# Immunizations

- Local health departments vaccinate people in their communities, providing one of the most successful and cost-effective services to prevent disease and death – [NACCHO.org](http://NACCHO.org)
- LHD provide Community vaccine clinics
- LHD provide vaccine education – check your local health department's website

# Infectious Disease Prevention

- Local health departments conduct investigations and collect and analyze data to track and prevent the spread of infectious diseases – [NACCHO.org](http://NACCHO.org)

Health departments do NOT work in a silo – we work in collaboration with the **experts**:

- Work in collaboration with the NE DHHS epidemiologist – Dr. Ishrat to identify and **investigate** the organism
- Work in collaboration with ICAP in **containment** of the organism to prevent the spread –
- Provide infection prevention assessments and recommendations.

# Environmental Health

LHD create disease control and prevention plans targeted to reduce bacterial and viral diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks, rodents, and other emerging vectors. LHD ensure communities have clean water and air and educate residents about air pollution. – NACCHO.org

- PPE supplies
- Water samples
- Air quality
- Food safety



# Emergency Preparedness

LHD are on-call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to protect their communities quickly and efficiently from all types of public health emergencies. LHD's know how to respond quickly and deploy resources during public health emergencies as the result of preparedness planning, training, and exercises. -NACCHO.org

- Supplies – PPE, etc.
- Community coordination



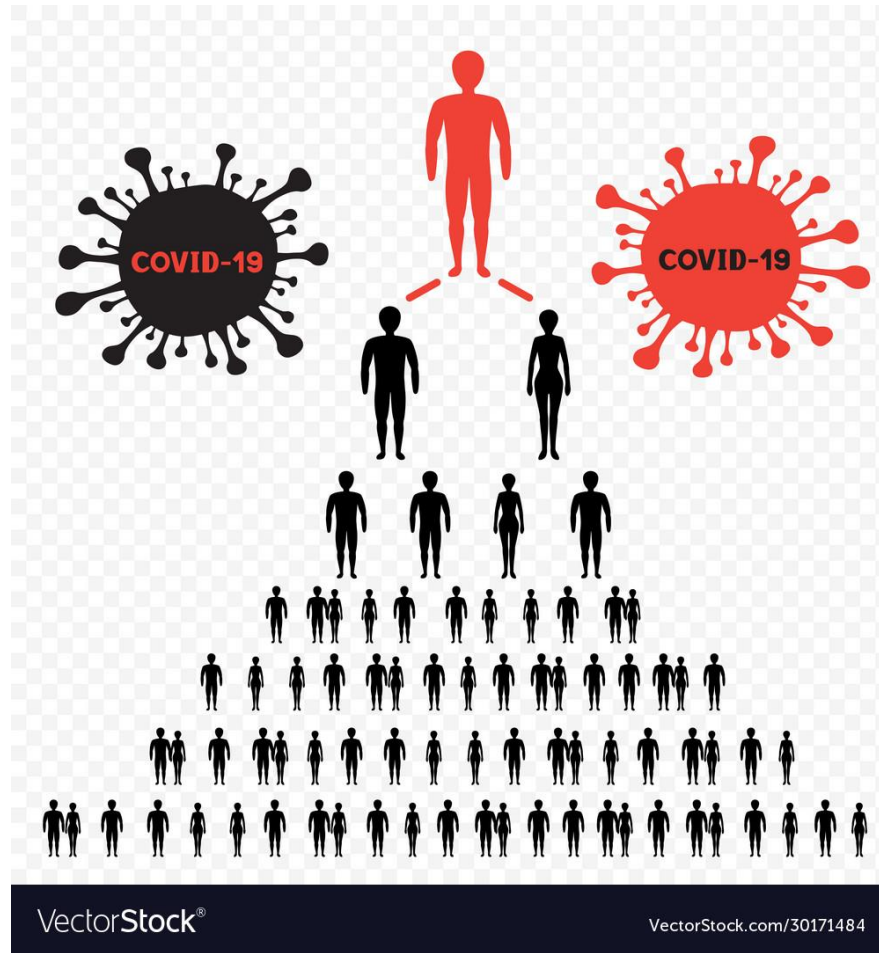
# Connections

- Connect with your local health department and find out what services they can provide to long-term care and assisted living facilities in your area.
- Building relationships is necessary to be successful in Infection Prevention practices.

# Community

“The goal of infection control is to keep people from getting sick. Infection control doesn’t just stop with patients, and when done correctly has far reaching impacts to keep your community healthy.” – Dr. Donahue

- LTC/AL and Community share a bi-directional relationship – health departments depend on OTC facilities to keep their staff and residents safe because their health affects the community as well as, facilities depend on the health department to slow the spread of disease in the community because spread directly impacts LTC facilities.



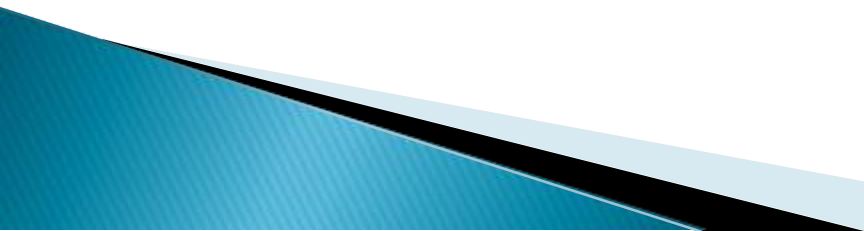
BLOC COVID-19+  
Building Local Operational Capacity For COVID-19, Healthcare-  
Associated Infections, and Antimicrobial Resistance

- ▶ NACCHO – along with CDC, awarded \$2.3 million in funding to prevent outbreaks of Infectious diseases in healthcare settings.
- ▶ CDHD was 1 of 24 local health departments in the United States.
  
- ▶ GOALS:
  1. Strengthen Relationships b/w LHD, facilities and partners
  2. Enhance LHD capacity and confidence in IP
  3. Improve implementation of IP practices and control in high risk areas (LTC & AL) associated with COVID-19, HAI, and AR's.

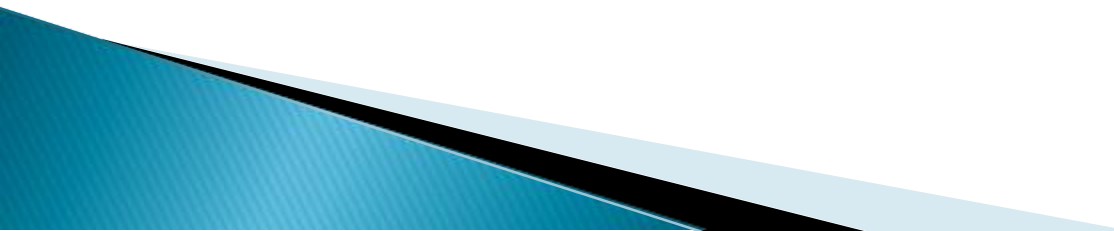
# BLOC COVID-19+ Grant

## ICAR Assessments

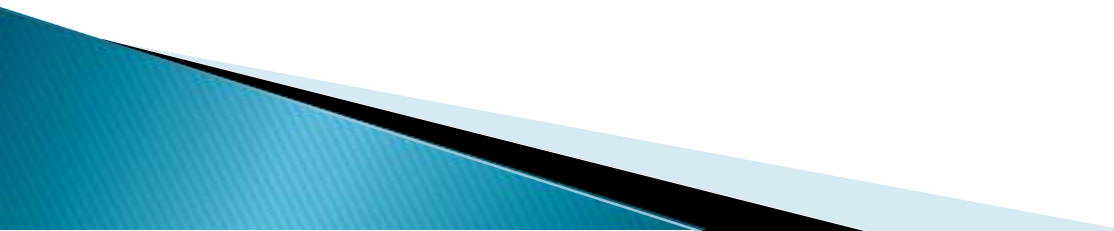
### Infection Control Assessment and Response

- ▶ Assess a healthcare facility's Infection Prevention and Control Practices.
  - ▶ Guide quality improvement activities (by addressing identified gaps).
  - ▶ Assessment is completed with 2 members of the ICAP team.
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# ICAR Assessment

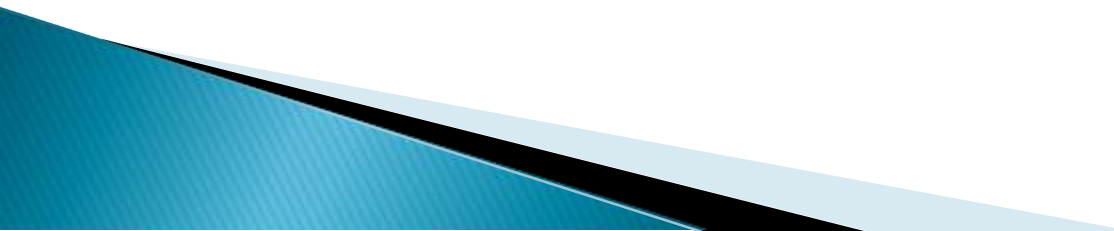
- ▶ Facility Demographics
  - ▶ Infection control Program and Infrastructure
  - ▶ Healthcare Personnel and Resident Safety
  - ▶ Surveillance and Disease Reporting
  - ▶ Hand Hygiene
  - ▶ Personal Protective Equipment
  - ▶ Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette
  - ▶ Prevention of Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) such as: C-diff (CDI), CAUTI, CLABSI
  - ▶ Injection Safety and Point of Care Testing
  - ▶ Environmental Cleaning
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# ICAR Assessment (con't)

- ▶ Antibiotic Stewardship
  - ▶ ICRA – Review purpose of an ICRA
  - ▶ Water Management
  - ▶ COVID-19
  - ▶ Laundry
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# Provided to facility after Assessment

- ▶ Discuss findings
  - ▶ Written ICAR assessment sent to facility
  - ▶ Strengths and Weaknesses
  - ▶ Updated Resources and References
  - ▶ Defined Abbreviations
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# ICRA Assessment

## Infection Control Risk Assessment


CDC requires an ICRA before any:

- Renovation
- Construction
- Repair project

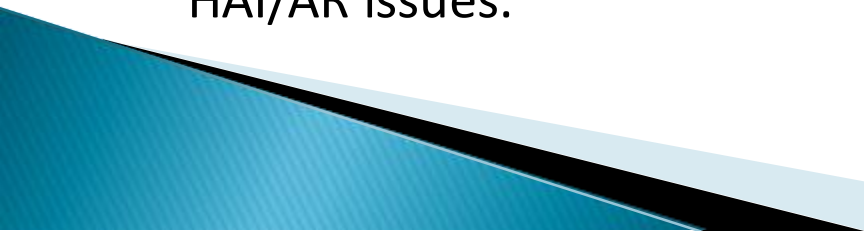
Process of determining the potential risk of transmission of various air and waterborne biological contaminants in the facility during renovation, construction and repair projects.

# LTCF Strike Team Project

Dr. Ashraf – NDHHS HAI/AR Medical Director

- ▶ Support LTCF (SNF and ALF) throughout the state in getting >90% of their staff fit tested (respirator).
  - ▶ Educate LTCF staff in infection control principles and COVID-19 prevention and containment measures to build internal capacity.
  - ▶ Support HAI/AR lead at each LHD to promote collaborative efforts with NDHHS HAI/AR Program for assisting healthcare facilities in the jurisdiction.
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# Strike Team

- Train two staff in fit-testing who will then serve as trainers for LTCF staff in their jurisdiction - NDHHS will arrange training sessions.
  - Visit all LTCF (both SNF and ALF) in need of training within the jurisdiction (at least one day/facility)
  - Fit test all staff members available for fit testing that day
  - Use the opportunity to train a few staff members at facility on fit-testing.
  - Maintain fit testing and train-the-trainer capacity at LHD level and assist facilities with any future fit testing need, (provision of N-95 masks, guidance on medical clearance etc.)
  - No requirements for additional site visits
  - Assign one LHD staff as HAI/AR Lead for the jurisdiction.
  - Will serve as DHHS HAI/AR program-LHD liaison.
  - Work collaboratively with NDHHS HAI/AR Program to assist facilities with any challenges related to NH strike team project or any other HAI/AR issues.
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# Respirator Fit Testing Training

Kyle Strand

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Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

<https://epi-dhhs.ne.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=NRAF4YRRE9KEYCFR>

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# Questions?

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