

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



Summer 2024 Member Call

07/31/2024

Meeting Summary

CORHA Summer Meeting Notes

Wednesday, July 31, 2024 | 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET via Zoom

Attendance

1. Natasha Bagdasarian (ASTHO – Voting Member)
2. Sara Podczervinski (Washington Dept of Health)
3. Andrea Flinchum (CSTE)
4. Moon Kim (NACCHO)
5. Kim McCullor (APHL)
6. Lisa Tomlinson (APIC)
7. Erin Epton (ASTHO – Voting Member)
8. Nicholas Moore (APHL)
9. Will Fritch (CSTE – Voting Member)
10. Joe Perz (CDC – Voting Member)
11. Geeta Sood (SHEA)
12. Kate Petersen (ASTHO)
13. Becca Pierce (CDC)
14. Christian Baum (NACCHO – CORHA Staff)
15. Cau Pham (CDC)
16. Jennifer Hunter (CDC)
17. Dawn Terashita (NACCHO – Voting Member)
18. Waleed Javaid (SHEA)
19. Paige Gable (CDC)
20. Irene Halferty (NACCHO – CORHA Staff)
21. Richard Martinello (SHEA)
22. Scott Steffens (FDA)
23. James Lewis (NACCHO)
24. Christopher Baliga (CSTE)
25. Mary Alice Lavin (APIC – Alternate)
26. Francesca Lee (APHL)
27. Grace Lee (ASTHO)
28. Erin Laird (ASTHO)

Notes

Opening Remarks

- Erin Epton (CSTE) began the meeting, welcoming attendees and introducing each of the CORHA Governance Committee members.
- A formal roll call was not conducted.

CORHA Workgroup and Product Updates

- Detection and Response WG
 - D&R has met twice since our Spring in-person meeting

- Progress has been made on expanding investigation, reporting, outbreak definition tables to include a fourth field – the end of an outbreak
 - Continued sub-workgroup progress
 - Group 1 - Public health investigation authority
 - Group 2 - Viral respiratory illness (ILI, ARI) resources
 - Both groups working to finalize drafts of new webpages (+ public health authority tool/resource), which should be elevated to full workgroup review in next month or two
- Lab WG
 - Intending to submit a session proposal for the American Society of Microbiology (ASM) for 2025 on HAI outbreak response and surveillance
 - Highlight P&P and highlight the AR lab network
 - Making progress on whole genome sequence supplement
 - Editing genotypic/phenotypic AST results document
- Policy
 - Policy WG presented at the annual CSTE Conference on *“Data Sharing and Access to Electronic Health Information (EHI) to Support HAI/AR Outbreak Response”*
 - Potential action items that emerged from this discussion:
 - A survey on access to EHI from other states
 - Joint action from national organizations to inform legal entities on the importance of gaining this access
 - The WG has been working on establishing connections with other organizations to further understand and navigate these data modernization discussions.
 - Other discussion topics have been on:
 - Development of emerging/urgent pathogens guidance
 - PH authority
- The CORHA Principles and Practices for Outbreak Response is almost finished, with CSTE doing the last few rounds of editing and revision.
- CORHA Communications Task Force
 - Newsletters
 - CORHA Insider is for internal CORHA members, which has been going out once every 6 weeks.
 - CORHA Correspondence
 - External Members (770 subscribers in June) – 1x/month
 - The number of subscribers continues to have high open-rates and engagement.
 - Includes outbreak news, CORHA products, relevant updates

- Open rates (67% & 34% in May & June)
- Spotlight series
 - Upcoming:
 - Importance of Data Sharing and Reporting: A Conversation with CORHA's Policy Workgroup Co-Chairs (Dawn Terashita & Moon Kim)
 - Local Health Department's Use of Data Sharing Modeled by Snohomish County, WA (James Lewis)
- News Items
 - Lean heavily on SHEA and APIC journals for content
 - If you come across relevant articles related to HAI/AR outbreaks, please share to info@corha.org
- Partner Outreach
 - The goal is to leverage the CORHA network to spread the word
 - We identified the best POCs for each organization (e.g., org reps, org communication specialists)
 - Sample language is shared to promote CORHA resources
 - Included in Insider for ALL to share with your networks as relevant
 - Organization specific POC's sent language for organization wide outreach
- CORHA Website
 - **Top Pages Accessed:**
 - Resources and Products
 - Home | CORHA
 - Investigation/Reporting Thresholds and Outbreak Definitions for COVID-19 in Healthcare Settings
 - CORHA Principles and Practices for Healthcare Outbreak Response
 - CORHA Framework for Healthcare-Associated Infection Outbreak Notification
 - CORHA Governance Committee Members: Mission, Vision, and Membership
 - **Views:** 4,700 & 1,800 per month in May and June
 - **Website Updates & Re-design**
 - NACCHO and the Comms Taskforce have been working with Astriata to increase the website's usability and implement a

website re-design & migration, complete with a CORHA Intro video and other new features.

- The soft launch of the new CORHA website will be August 7th.
- The hard launch of the new CORHA website will be on August 19th when members and the public will be notified of the new website!

Member Organization Resource Announcements

- APHL
 - No updates
- APIC
 - Safe injection practices
 - The document is in the final stages of review and will be released soon.
 - [Modernizing Devices Call to Action](#) has been posted.
 - APIC will be working with FDA and other stakeholder orgs to improve medical device instructions for use.
 - The emerging infections disease taskforce has some work on H5N1 and is currently doing review on necessary updates on their emerging infectious diseases [playbooks](#)
- ASTHO
 - As a follow up to the 8 ways document, ASTHO is developing a microlearning on HAI programs and the landscape of the work. IT provides an overview of the funding, work, and value of these programs and how leadership can support these programs to improve HAI outbreak response.
 - It will be released at the end of September.
- CDC
 - [Healthcare Outbreak Response Training new modules](#) have been released.
 - These modules tie in with CORHA's work, especially to Chapter of the P&P.
 - The training includes an intro module + seven full modules. Each full module is about 45 min to 1 hour for a total of seven hours.
- CMS
 - No updates
- CSTE
 - [DMI Stories from the Field](#) have been released.
 - There are some jurisdictions in this series that tie into outbreak response.
 - Examples include:
 - [Montana's story](#) about how their HAI/AR Program transitioned to be its own section at the health department and how they've been leveraging multi-disciplinary teams to respond to GAS outbreaks in LTCFs.

- South Carolina's story about improving interoperability between the public health lab and health department to improve communication of sequencing data for purposes such as determining relatedness during outbreaks.
 - CSTE submitted a response to CMS' FY25 IPPS proposed rule:
 - CSTE included some relevant NHSN items and encourages members to read through the rule and CSTE's response.
 - CSTE hosted their Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, PA that highlighted several compelling HAI/AR outbreaks.
 - The Sunday workshop featured many outbreak stories, and there were many other sessions that detailed applications of technique and best practices for outbreak response.
 - There will be further discussions on how CORHA member orgs/workgroups can add to future CSTE abstracts.
- FDA
 - No updates
- NACCHO
 - Partnership Toolkit for Data Use for HAI Outbreaks
 - This resource will be coming soon.
 - Healthcare Outbreak Data Case Studies
 - How LHDs have strengthened their access and use of data to respond to outbreaks in healthcare settings. This resource will be coming soon.
 - LHD HAI Staff Competency and Training Workbook
 - This resource came out of a landscape analysis looking at LHD workforce and needs. It builds on training plans developed for LHD staff and organized into 11 domains with many CORHA resources linked throughout the training workbook.
 - There is a pre and post assessment to evaluate and assess the information learned from the training workbook.
 - This resource is free for the public to access.
 - Framework and Guide for Integrating Health Equity into Outbreak Response and Prevention in Healthcare Settings
 - Looks at community and individual-level factors that should be considered for outbreak response.
- SHEA
 - The pocket guides for the SHEA/IDSA/APIC Compendium, which is a set of 7 guidelines on prevention of HAIs and implementation of infection prevention interventions, is now complete.
 - Bulk orders of the printed supplement of the SHEA/IDSA/APIC Compendium are available while supplies last.
 - The SHEA Foundation website has been updated with recently published SHEA Research Network studies.

- SHEA updated its webpage on high-consequence pathogens to provide a quick and up-to-date list of online resources for healthcare preparedness.

H5N1 Discussion

- HAI programs have been following along closely with the H5N1 events and updates throughout the country.
 - Jurisdictions have been mindful on messaging and communication, as well as on timing of alerts and notifications sent to partners in the field.
- Michigan has been on the forefront of H5N1 cases in both animals and humans. Examples from Michigan's dairy farms were shared on the holding chambers, milking process, etc.
 - National PPE guidance has been out in the field for how dairy farmers need to dress to work with animals, but most dairy farms do not follow this guidance.
 - The cases in MI were caused by direct contact with infected animals.
 - These examples from the field may inform our approach working with healthcare settings to prevent HAI outbreaks.
 - There is a serology and milk study being conducted in MI.
- CORHA members discussed how there is a need to meet people where they are in terms of PPE use.
 - MI developed their own PPE guidance in their state in order to best implement harm reduction protocols based on what people in the field are doing.
- The experiences from jurisdictions responding to H5N1 outbreaks may lay the foundation for discussing the development of supportive resources for responding to disease X in healthcare settings.
- Member Organizations were asked about messaging on emerging infections and hospital preparedness.
 - There is interest in considering the "thresholds/triggers" when to message to healthcare facilities.
- Would be useful to have a framework for responding to "disease X" that can be used as a foundation for how to respond to other emerging pathogens in healthcare settings.
 - World Health Organization Example:
<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240051027>
 - The CORHA Policy WG may bring on an ad hoc preparedness member to work on this activity.
- While not in a position to create guidance, CORHA is well-positioned to identify gaps in guidance, highlight useful guidance, and support implementation of existing guidance.

Closing Remarks

- CORHA's workgroups have been deeply engaged in their work and have been working on not only activities to further their workgroup charges, but also ways to share the work they are doing at conferences, submitting journal manuscripts, etc.
- The CORHA Principles and Practices for Outbreak Response is being finalized and released soon. CORHA staff and leadership would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the P&P.
- CORHA members are encouraged to explore and share the new CORHA website once it is launched in mid-August.
 - CORHA members are also encouraged to share relevant events and news to CORHA staff to post on the website and share in the CORHA newsletter.
- Given jurisdictions' experiences with H5N1 cases, CORHA may work on policy implications and thinking about gaps in guidance or support needed to implement guidance on how to respond to the next emerging pathogen.

Call Materials Included

- Agenda
- Slide Deck

2024 CORHA Summer Member Call

July 31, 2024; 3:00-4:30 pm ET

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 843 3653 5469

One tap mobile:

+13052241968,,84336535469# US

Time	Discussion Topic	Facilitators
3:00 - 3:05	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Erin Epton
3:05 – 3:15	CORHA Announcements and Updates • CORHA Product & Workgroup Updates • Communications Task Force Updates	Erin Epton
3:15 – 3:45	Member Organization (MO) Updates	Erin Laird
3:45 – 4:20	Healthcare System Preparedness for H5N1	Erin Epton and Dawn Terashita
4:20-4:30	Wrap up and Closing • Next Steps	Natasha Bagdasarian



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CORHA Announcements & Updates



Detection and Response

Lead: Linda Greene and
Waleed Javaid

CORHA Staff Contact:
Will Fritch

Detection and Response Workgroup Roster

- Erin Epton
- Andrea Flinchum
- Linda Greene*
- Jennifer Hunter
- Waleed Javaid*
- Mary Alice Lavin
- Becca Pierce
- Kiran Perkins
- Joe Perz
- Julie Madaras
- Geeta Sood
- Scott Steffen
- Amy Valderama



Detection and Response Updates

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 - Progress made on expanding investigation, reporting, outbreak definition tables to include a fourth field: end of outbreak
- Continued sub-workgroup progress
 - Group 1 - Public health investigation authority
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 - Both groups working to finalize drafts of new webpages (+ public health authority tool/resource) – should be elevated to full workgroup review in next month or two



Lab

Lead: Kimberly McCullor and
Nicolas Moore

CORHA Staff Contact: Will
Fritch

Lab Workgroup Roster

- Robyn Atkinson-Dunn
- Andrew Clark
- Paige Gable
- Kristie Johnson
- Francesca Lee
- Kimberly McCullor*
- Nicholas Moore*
- Cau Pham
- Jafar Razeq
- Rita Park Stainback
- Richard Stanton
- Kaede Ota Sullivan
- Alex Sundermann
- Tracy Stiles
- Kelly Wroblewski



Policy

Leads: Dawn Terashita and
Moon Kim

CORHA Staff Contact: Grace
Lee

Policy Workgroup Roster

- Chris Baliga
- Marisa D'Angeli
- Kris Ehresmann
- Jeremy Goodman
- Moon Kim*
- James Lewis
- Rick Martinello
- Lisa McGiffert
- Elizabeth Mothershed
- Joe Perz
- Dawn Terashita*
- Lisa Tomlinson



Policy Updates

- Policy WG presented at the annual CSTE Conference on “*Data Sharing and Access to Electronic Health Information (EHI) to Support HAI/AR Outbreak Response*”
 - Potential action items that emerged from this discussion:
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- The WG has been working on establishing connections with other organizations to further understand and navigate these data modernization discussions.
- Other discussion topics have been on:
 - Development of emerging/urgent pathogens guidance
 - PH authority



CORHA Comms - Summer 2024 Updates

- **Communications Strategies:**

- Newsletters
 - CORHA Insider
 - Internal Members – 1x/6 weeks
- CORHA Correspondence
 - External Members (770 subscribers in June) – 1x/month
 - Includes outbreak news, CORHA products, relevant updates
 - Open rates (67% & 34% in May & June)
- Website
- Partner Network

CORHA Comms - Recent Updates

Spotlight Series

- Upcoming:
 - Importance of Data Sharing and Reporting: A Conversation with CORHA's Policy Workgroup Co-Chairs (Dawn Terashita & Moon Kim)
 - Local Health Department's Use of Data Sharing Modeled by Snohomish County, WA (James Lewis)

News Items

- Lean heavily on SHEA and APIC journals for content
- If you come across relevant articles related to HAI/AR outbreaks, please share to info@corha.org!

CORHA Comms - Partner Network

- **Partner Outreach**

- The goal is to leverage the CORHA network to spread the word
- We identified the best POCs for each organization (e.g., org reps, org communication specialists)
- Sample language is shared to promote CORHA resources
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CORHA Comms - Website

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- CORHA Principles and Practices for Healthcare Outbreak Response
- CORHA Framework for Healthcare-Associated Infection Outbreak Notification
- CORHA Governance Committee Members: Mission, Vision, and Membership

Views:

- 4,700 & 1,800 per month in May and June

CORHA Comms – Website Updates

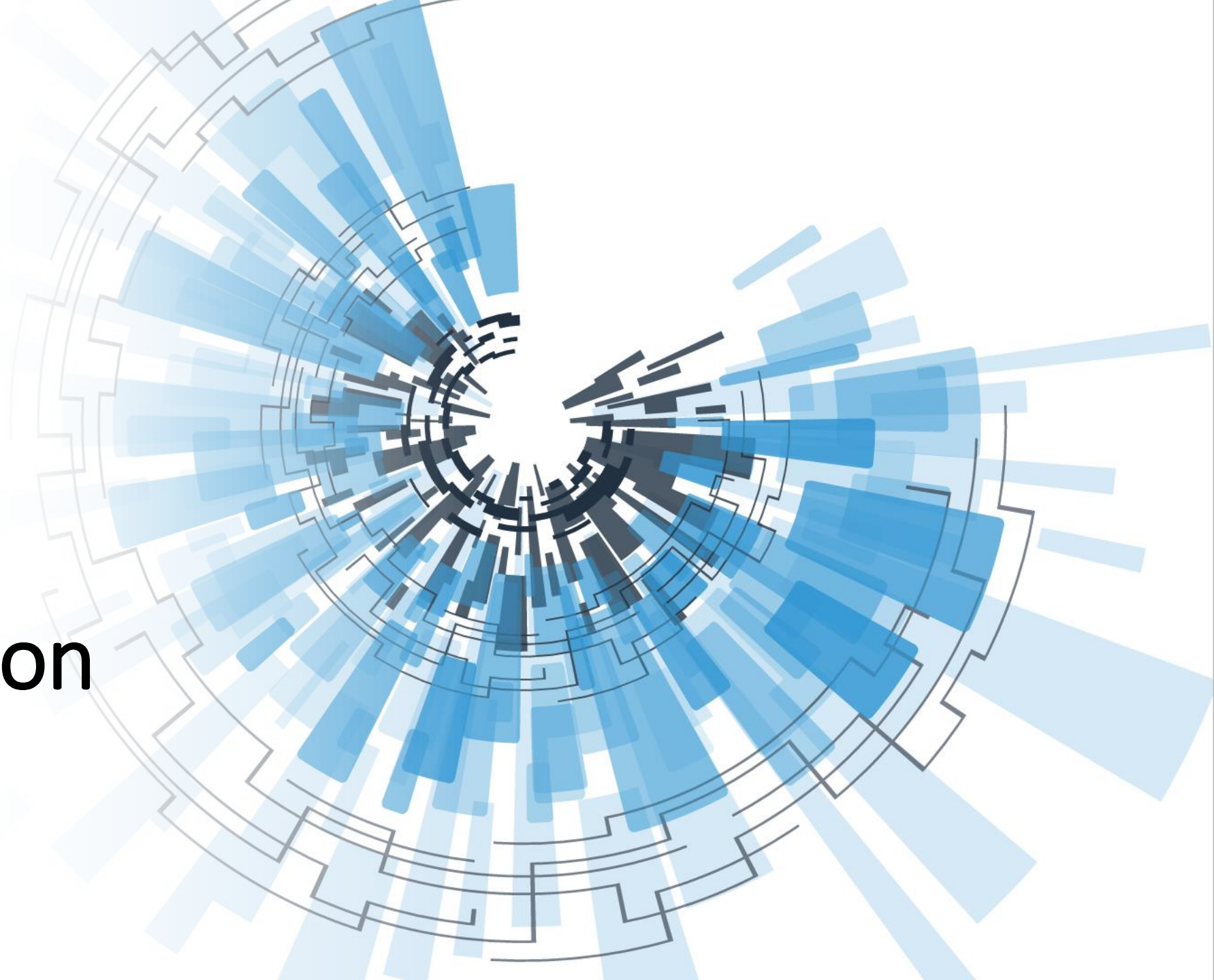
Website Updates & Re-design

- NACCHO and the Comms Taskforce have been working with Astriata to increase the website's usability and implement a website re-design & migration
- Sneak Preview
 - Website Overview
 - CORHA graphic intro video

CORHA Comms - Thank You!

If you have additional feedback or questions related to any communications updates, please email info@corha.org

Member Organization Updates

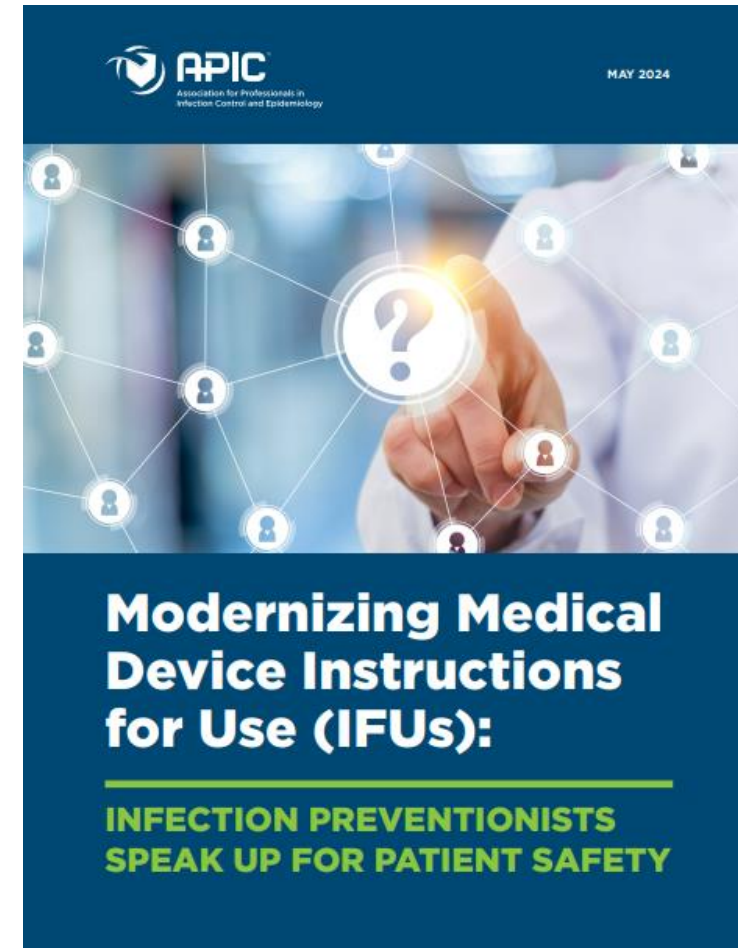


APHL

- No update

APIC

- Forthcoming: Safe injection Practices Paper
- Modernizing Devices Call to Action



ASTHO

- Forthcoming Resource: HAI Roadmap Microlearning



<https://learn.astho.org/>



- New Modules: Healthcare Outbreak Response Training



CMS

- No update

CSTE

- DMI Stories from the Field
- CMS FY25 IPPS proposed rule
- CSTE Annual Conference

FDA

- No update

NACCHO

- Partnership Toolkit for Data Use for HAI Outbreaks
- Healthcare Outbreak Data Case Studies
- LHD HAI Staff Competency and Training Workbook
- Framework and Guide for Integrating Health Equity into Outbreak Response and Prevention in Healthcare Settings

NACCHO Updates and Resources Coming Soon

Christina Baum, MPH
July 31, 2024

About NACCHO

NACCHO serves over 3,300 local health departments across the United States and is the leader in providing cutting-edge, skill building, professional resources and programs. Our mission is to improve the health of communities by strengthening and advocating for local health departments.

- ✓ Advocacy
- ✓ Partnerships
- ✓ Funding
- ✓ Training and education
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Resources, tools, and technical assistance

NACCHO Resources: Coming Soon!

Strategic Collaboration Guide

(Partnership Toolkit for
Data Use for HAI
Outbreaks)



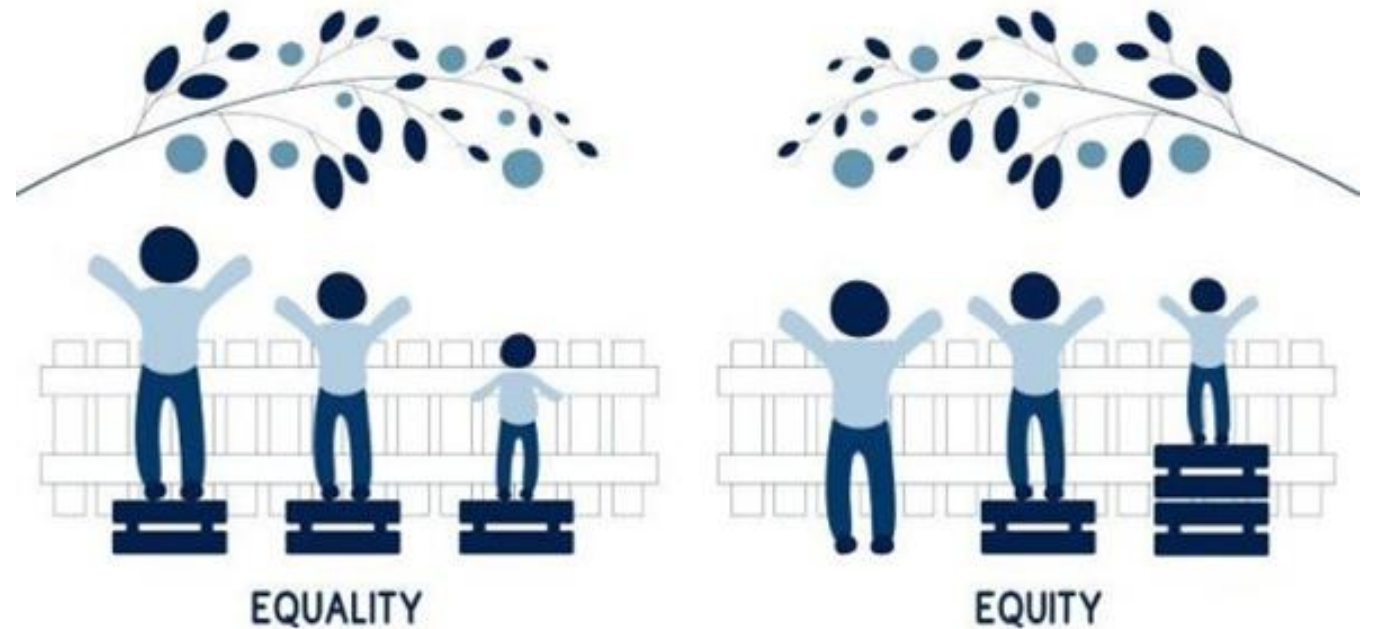
Data Utilization and Management Guide

(LHD Healthcare
Outbreak Data Case
Studies)



NACCHO Resources: Coming Soon!

Framework and Guide for
Integrating Health Equity
into Outbreak Response
and Prevention in
Healthcare Settings



NACCHO Resources: Coming Soon!

HAI and AR: Opportunities for LHDs in Prevention and Response A Landscape Analysis Report

LHDs Workforce Roles and Responsibilities in HAI/AR Prevention

LHDs are well-positioned to play the following roles in HAI/AR prevention and response:

- 1 Trusted partner
- 2 Subject matter expert
- 3 Convener of healthcare and local partners
- 4 Communicator across facilities to facilitate response
- 5 Provider of education and guidance
- 6 Provider of data and analysis

Education and Training Requirements

Training Needs

- Building and maintaining partnerships
- Providing IPC guidance and conducting provider education
- Supporting implementation of IPC practices
- Conducting Infection Control Assessments

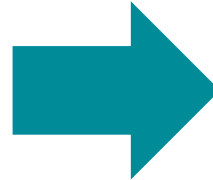
Education and Certification

- Most jobs require:
 - A bachelor's degree
 - One year of relevant experience
- 80% of epidemiologist positions require a master's degree

Strategies to Strengthen Relationships

Partnerships are key to infection prevention and control (IPC) efforts, but are primarily described as transactional. The following are lessons shared by LHDs:

- Developing trusting relationships with community healthcare partners takes time and frequent contact.
- Clarifying roles and articulating how LHDs can support HAI activities is critical to ensure public health is not viewed as regulatory.
- Establishing effective HAI strategies occurs through shared learning.
- Implementing strategies within hierarchical healthcare systems requires developing relationships beyond established coalitions.



LHD HAI Staff Competency and Training Workbook

LHD HAI Staff Competency and Training Workbook-

- Organized into 11 Domains:
 - Infection Prevention & Control Operations
 - Collaboration, Coordination, & Partnership
 - Surveillance
 - Data & Informatics
 - Outbreaks & Investigation
 - Education & Communication
 - Health Equity
 - Program & Budget Management
 - Laboratory Diagnostics
 - Antimicrobial Stewardship
 - Leadership

Domain Overview

Skills & Attributes

Pre-Assessment

Health Department Roles &
Staff Competencies

Take Action

Knowledge Check

Post-Assessment

NACCHO Resources: Coming Soon!

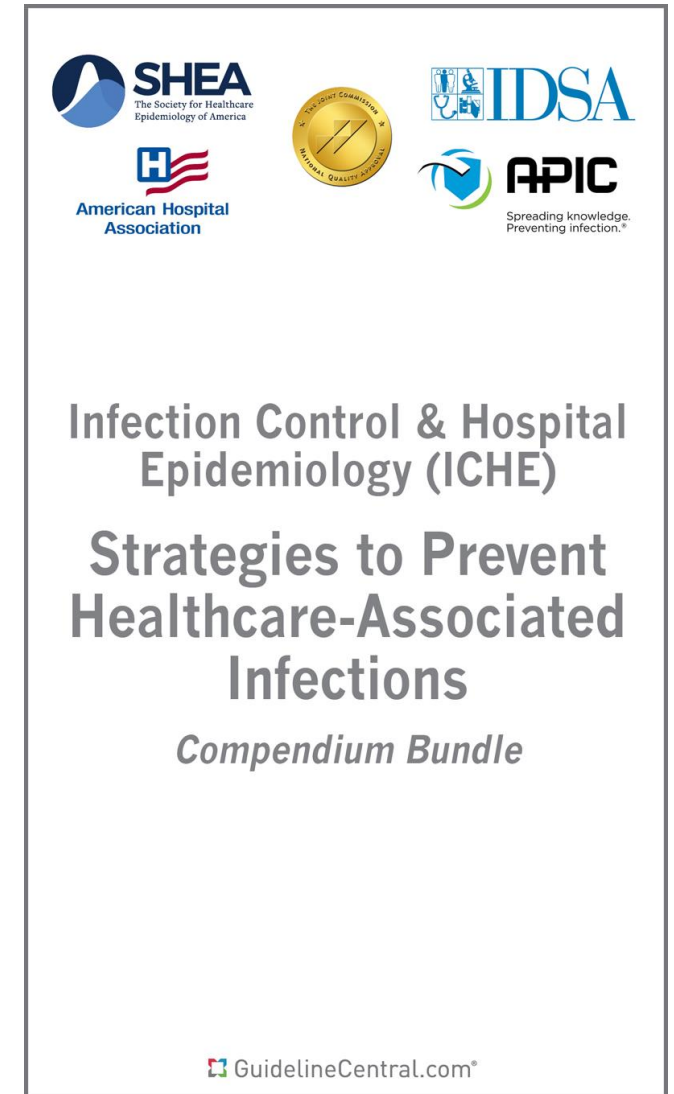
This fall, NACCHO will have a webinar series on these 4 tools to walk through how to use them and hear from LHDs who informed them.



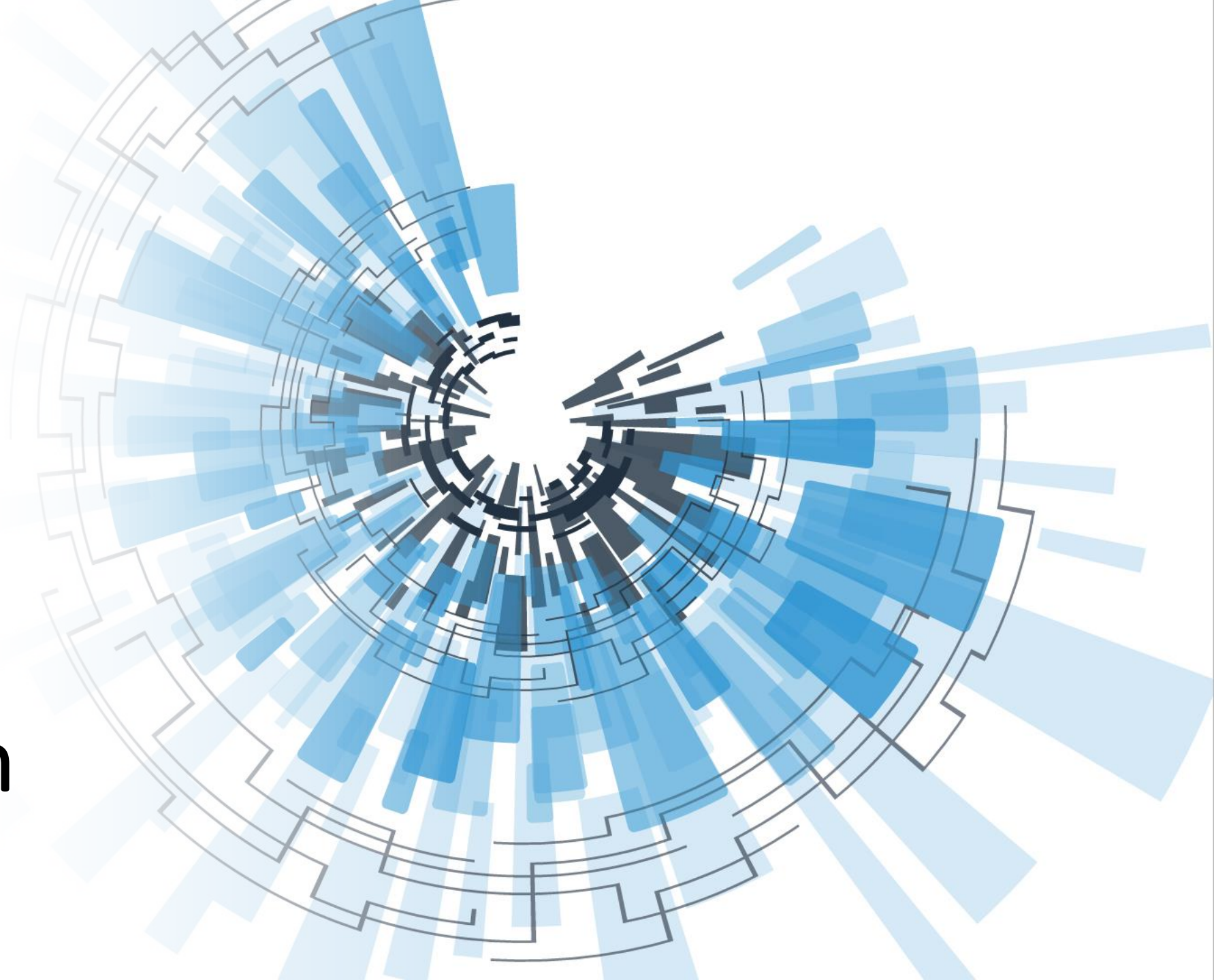
Thank you!

SHEA

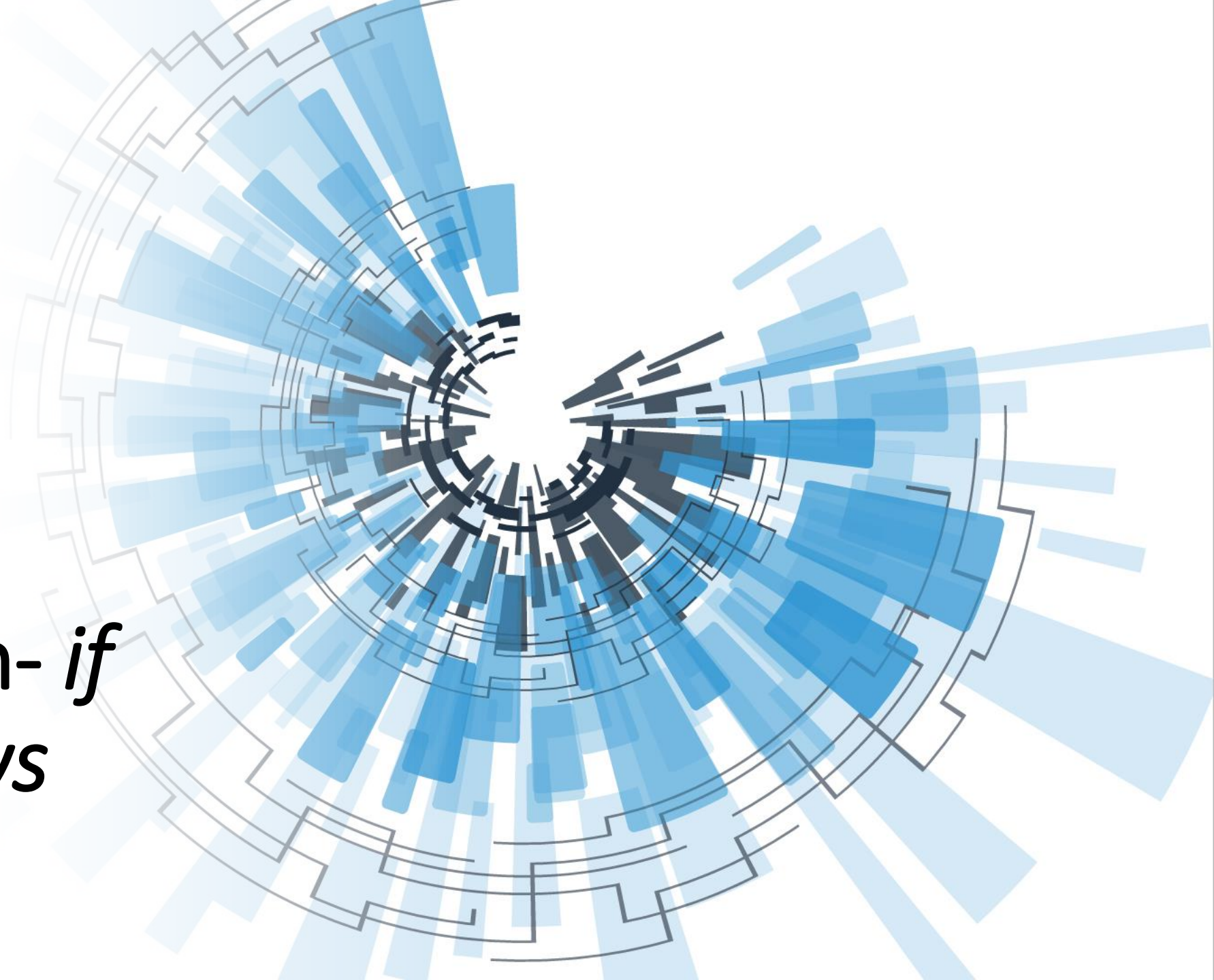
- Now available: Pocket guides for the SHEA/IDSA/APIC Compendium.
- The SHEA Foundation website updated with recently published SHEA Research Network studies.
- SHEA updated its high-consequence pathogens webpage to provide a list of resources for healthcare preparedness.



H5N1 Discussion



Open
Discussion- *if
time allows*



Adjourn

