

# **Introduction to the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Education Specialist**

**Health Care-Associated Infection Prevention Program**



**Florida Department of Health**

# Learning Objectives

By the end of this education session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the Health Care-Associated Infection (HAI) Prevention Program structure and its initiative to prevent or mitigate disease transmission in the population.
- Understand the regional IPC Education Specialist role within the HAI Prevention Program and how to engage them to assist in the prevention of disease transmission among the population.

# **HAI Prevention Program Overview**

# Mission and Vision

**Mission:** To promote the prevention and control of health care-associated and antimicrobial-resistant infections using surveillance methods, evidence-based prevention and control strategies through the collaboration of public and private health agencies

**Vision:** To reduce health care-associated infections (HAIs) within Florida's health care system

**Four Priority Areas:** Infection Prevention Standards and Practices

Surveillance & Outbreak Response to HAIs

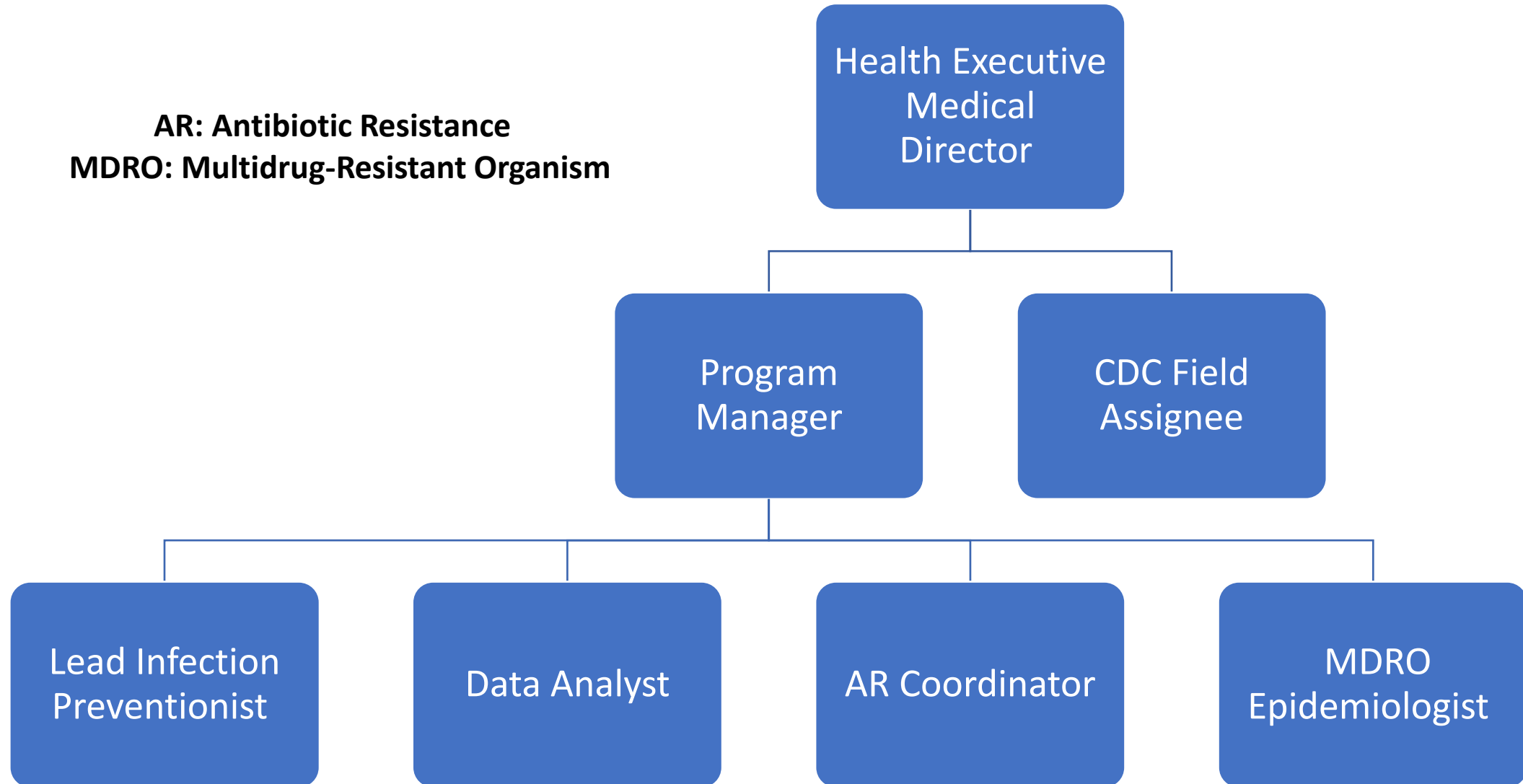
Antimicrobial Stewardship

Surveillance & Outbreak Response to MDROs and *C. difficile*

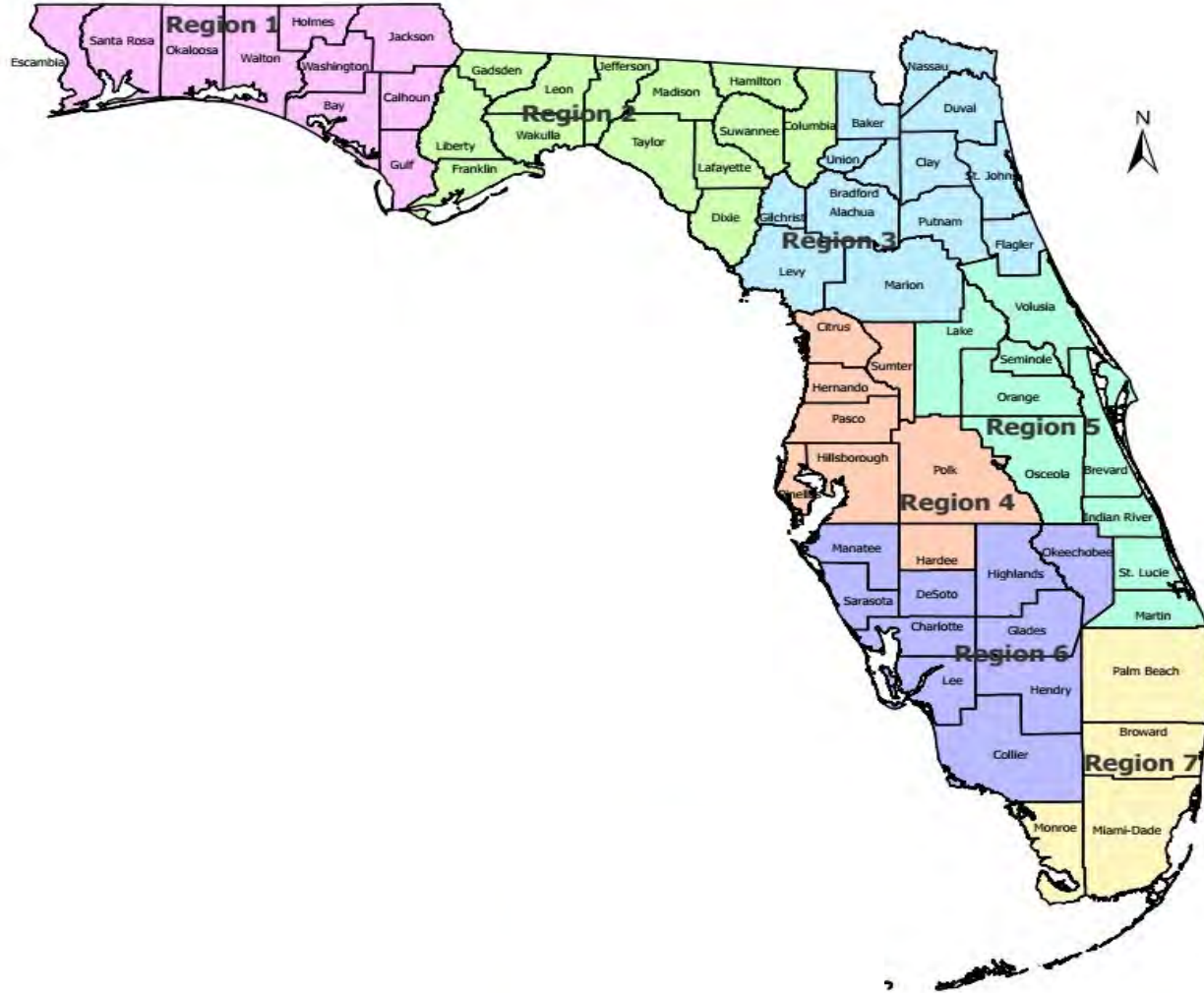


# Organizational Structure

**AR: Antibiotic Resistance**  
**MDRO: Multidrug-Resistant Organism**



# HAI Prevention Program Map



## IPC Education Specialist Assignments

Melanie Manney Regions 1 and 2

Sasha Nelson Regions 3 and 5

Jacqueline Whitaker Region 4

Chantel Emery Region 6

Paola Montes Region 7

# Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Assignment

- FDOH has 7 regions in the state
- Program Assistants assigned to each region
- IPC Education Specialists are assigned to each region
  - Melanie Manney – Regions 1 and 2
  - Sasha Nelson – Regions 3 and 5
  - Jackie Whitaker – Region 4
  - Chantel Emery – Region 6
  - Paola Montes – Region 7

# Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Assignment (contd.)

- Daily and weekly reports for ALFs and SNFs
  - Daily – Flagged report (FDOH)
  - Weekly - Situation report (NHSN)
- Facilities with 1 or more cases will be assigned to county and regional Infection Preventionists (IPs)
- Facilities with 10 or more cases will be assigned to the regional Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Education Specialist
- Goal is to perform an ICAR within 3 days of assignment



# IPC Education Specialist Referral Sources

- County Health Department (CHD) Representatives
- Regional IPs
- County IPs
- Health Executive Medical Director
- CDC Field Assignee
- Program Manager
- Program Assistant
- Regional IP Education Specialist
- Senior Infection Preventionist

# IPC Education Specialist Referral Focus

- Long-term care facilities
  - Assisted living facilities
  - Skilled nursing facilities
  - Rehabilitation facilities
  - Long-term acute-care hospitals
- Outpatient dialysis centers
- Short-term acute-care hospitals
- Day care centers
- Drug rehabilitation centers
  - Outpatient
  - Inpatient
- Correctional facilities
- Schools
- Ambulatory surgery centers

# IPC Education Specialist Processes

- Orientation of regional and county assigned Infection Preventionists
  - Infection Control Assessment Response (ICAR) process
  - Communication with county health departments (CHDs)
  - Support in the interpretation of guideline updates
- Facility ICAR process
  - Remote and on site
- Education session
  - Long-term care facilities (LTCFs)
  - Counties
  - Affiliate organizations (Florida Hospital Association [FHA], Florida Health Care Association [FHCA], Florida Professions in Infection Control [FPIC], Quality Improvement Network-Quality Improvement Organization [QIN-QIO], Agency for Healthcare Administration [AHCA] etc.)
  - Acute-care hospitals
- Consultation
  - Multidrug-Resistant Organism (MDRO) outbreaks

# CDC Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) Survey

- Emailed to all LTCF leaders in Florida
  - ICAR visit reminders – onsite and remote
- QR Code or URL link
- CDC REDCap software
- Received 137 responses
- Firstline/frontline workers targeted
- Survey questions revolve around first line workers' knowledge of IPC practices, desired educational needs, and platforms

# CDC Learning Needs Assessment (LNA) Survey (contd.)

- Top 3 educational needs:
  - Source control
  - Cleaning and disinfection
  - COVID-19
- Platforms:
  - Interactive discussion with an expert
  - Self-driven learning
  - Interactive discussion with a group of peers
  - Listening to a lecture

# COVID-19 Resource for LTCFs

- Florida Health Care Association (FHCA)—[fhca.org](http://fhca.org)
- COVID-19 resource page
  - Links to the latest published information on:
    - COVID-19 testing
    - Executive Orders
    - Quarantine
    - Return to work
    - Isolation
    - County positivity rates
    - Routine meetings to keep LTCFs abreast
- Encourage facilities to use this website for the latest updates

# FHCA Web Page

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `fhca.org/facility_operations/coronavirus`. The page header includes the Florida Health Care Association logo and the tagline "Florida's Advocate for Long Term Care Providers and the Elders They Serve". A dark navigation bar contains the following links: About Us, Facility Operations, COVID-19, Quality Improvement, Advocacy, News & Publications, Education, and Membership. A blue arrow points to the "COVID-19" link. Below the navigation bar, the page title "Facility Operations" is centered. The main content area features the heading "Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)" on the left and a "Member Login" button on the right. Below the login button are the links "Not a Member? Join here." and "Forgot password?". A large banner at the bottom of the page displays "COVID-19" in large, bold letters. On the right side of the banner, there are two sections: "FHCA Emergency Preparedness Contacts" and "FHCA Member COVID-19 Inquiries\*" with the email address `covid@fhca.org`. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the search bar, system tray, and the date/time "12:53 PM 8/6/2021".

# HAI Prevention Program Initiatives

- HAI prevention
- MDRO outbreak management
  - Referral sources
    - Hospital reports to CHD
    - Hospital reports directly to HAI Outbreak ICAR Epidemiologist
    - Specimen sent to BPHL and then BPHL sends notification
    - Electronically uploaded into Merlin
  - Jalysa Erskine, HAI Outbreak ICAR Epidemiologist
- 3 HAI Epidemiologists—Miami-Dade, Orange, and Seminole
  - Coordinate MDRO investigations, identify HAI antibiotic resistance (AR) opportunities, provide infection prevention support
  - Expectation is to provide recommendations, education, training opportunities
- Advisory Board with state partners: AHCA, FHA, FPIC, QIN-QIO, FHCA



# HAI Program Collaboration With CHDs

- Regional IP communication and support
- IP Education Specialist support
- Training opportunities for CHD epidemiologists assigned to ICARs
- Weekly webinar training with CHDs
- Education sessions for LTCFs, ACHs, affiliate organizations, etc.

# Future CHD Webinar Training

Date	Topic	Presenter
October 26, 2021	Hand Hygiene	Melanie Manney
November 9, 2021	PPE Donning and Doffing	Chantel Emery
November 30, 2021	Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection	Sasha Nelson
December 7, 2021	Standard Precautions and Transmission-Based Precautions	Paola Montes

# Contact Information

<p><b>Tammy Jernigan APRN, MSN, CIC</b> Senior Infection Preventionist Email: Tammy.Jernigan@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-766-7582</p>	<p><b>Jacqueline Whitaker RN MS CPHRM CPHQ CIC FAPIC</b> IPC Education Specialist–Region 4 Email: Jacqueline.Whitaker@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-756-0393</p>
<p><b>Melanie Manney, APRN, WCC</b> Education Specialist–Regions 1 and 2 Email: Melanie.Manney@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-694-3342</p>	<p><b>Chantel Emery MS, BSN, RN, CIC</b> IPC Education Specialist–Region 6 Email: Chantel.Emery@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-544-5390</p>
<p><b>Sasha Nelson, MPH, CPH, CIC, CCMA</b> IPC Education Specialist Regions 3 and 5 Email: Sasha.Nelson@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-815-1937</p>	<p><b>Paola Montes, MPH, MT (ASCP), CIC, CHES</b> IPC Education Specialist–Region 7 Email: Paola.Montes@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-782-1590</p>
<p><b>Jalysa Erskine</b> HAI ICAR Epidemiologist Email: Jalysa.Erskine@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-815-1563</p>	<p><b>Alina Corral</b> HAI Program Assistant Email: Alina.Corral@flhealth.gov Phone: 850-901-6784</p>

# References

- Martos-Cabrera, M. B., Mota-Romero, E., Martos-García, R., Gómez-Urquiza, J. L., Suleiman-Martos, N., Albendín-García, L., & Cañadas-De la Fuente, G. A. (2019). Hand Hygiene Teaching Strategies among Nursing Staff: A Systematic Review. *International journal of environmental research and public health*, 16(17), 3039. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph16173039>

**Questions?**



**Thank you!**

