STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL

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Commissioner

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November 18, 2022

The Honorable Mark Pearson, Chairperson
Health and Human Services Oversight Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 205
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Pearson:

This letter is to inform you that the New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services will release healthcare-associated infections (HAI) reports for hospitals and Ambulatory Surgery Centers (ASC) in accordance with RSA 151:34 by November 2022. These reports are available to the public on our website (Healthcare-Associated Infections | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (nh.gov) and the Division will issue a press release highlighting key findings.

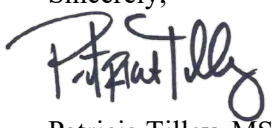
The hospital 2021 report shows that overall, New Hampshire had fewer HAIs than predicted based on national data, and these data were statistically significant. A total of 157 HAI were reported by hospitals in 2021, compared to 131 in 2020. The overall observed number of HAIs in New Hampshire hospitals was 39.4% fewer than predicted based on national data; there were 8.0% fewer central line-associated bloodstream infections, 2.2% fewer catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and 33.5% fewer surgical site infections. Statewide the overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 89.2%, which nearly met the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90%.

The ambulatory surgery center 2021 report shows that overall, New Hampshire ASCs had fewer HAIs than predicted based on national data, and these data were statistically significant. Zero surgical site infections were reported by ASCs for 2021 and 2020. Statewide ASC overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 89.7% (compared with 88.0% during the 2020-21 influenza season).

Per RSA 151:34, IV, the Department is also required to report on HAI program costs to the Health and Human Services Committee and the House and Senate Ways and Means Committee, regarding the amount of federal funding received for the program, and the amount of fees paid by hospitals and ambulatory surgical centers to support the program. The approved HAI Program operating budget for SFY 2022 was $368,660. No fees for State Fiscal Year 2022 were assessed due to receipt of federal funding that fully covered program operating costs. In addition, the HAI Program received additional federal funds to support non-HAI reporting activities such as antimicrobial resistance initiatives and educating public health and healthcare workers on infection prevention and control of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

The Department continues to work with hospitals and ASCs to collect and report these important data on HAIs and respond timely and effectively to infectious disease threats to assure the health of the citizens of New Hampshire. Thank you for your commitment to this issue. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (603) 271-0895.

Sincerely,



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