Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Iain N. Watt
Director

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

***DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES***

***BUREAU OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE CONTROL***

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January 24, 2025

The Honorable John Janigan, Chairperson
House Ways and Means
Legislative Office Building, Room 202
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Representative Janigan:

This letter is to inform you that the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services (DPHS) will release data on the occurrence of healthcare-associated infections (HAI) for hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers (ASC), dialysis centers, and long-term care facilities (LTCFs) in accordance with RSA 151:34 in January 2025. These reports will be available to the public on our website (Healthcare-Associated Infections | New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (nh.gov)). The 2023 data shows that overall, New Hampshire had fewer healthcare-associated infections than would be anticipated based on national data and that influenza vaccination rates for healthcare personnel were higher for hospitals than they were for other facility types.

Please see details below for New Hampshire hospitals, ASCs, dialysis centers, and LTCFs:

- Hospitals had fewer HAIs than predicted based on national data, and these data were statistically significant. A total of 135 HAIs were reported by hospitals in 2023, compared to 157 in 2022. The overall observed number of HAIs in New Hampshire hospitals was 68.9% fewer than predicted based on national data; there were 24.0% fewer central line-associated bloodstream infections, 24.1% fewer catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and 28.2% fewer surgical site infections. Statewide, the overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 89.9%, which nearly met the Healthy People 2020 goal of 90%.
- ASCs had fewer HAIs than predicted based on national data, and these data were statistically significant. Six surgical site infections were reported by ASCs for 2023, and zero surgical site infections were reported by ASCs for 2022. Statewide, ASCs' overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 80.1% (compared with 87.9% during the 2022-23 influenza season).
- Dialysis centers had fewer HAIs than predicted based on national data, and these data were statistically significant. A total of 299 blood stream infections were reported by dialysis centers for 2023. Statewide, dialysis center overall healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 52.6% (compared with 55.0% during the 2022-23 influenza season).
- The long-term care facility (LTCF) 2023 report shows nursing homes, assisted living/residential care, supported residential care, and community residence healthcare personnel influenza vaccination rate was 50.1% (compared with 38.2% during the 2022-23 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 operating budget for SFY 2023 for coordination with facilities, analysis, and creation of these reports was $348,203. No fees for State Fiscal Year 2023 were assessed due to receipt of federal funding that fully covered program operating costs. In addition, the Department received additional federal funds to support other HAI activities such as antimicrobial resistance initiatives and educating frontline healthcare workers on infection prevention and control of infectious diseases.

The Department continues to work with hospitals, ASCs, dialysis centers, and LTCFs 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 Katrina Hansen, Section Chief for Infectious Disease Surveillance (katrina.e.hansen@dhhs.nh.gov; 603-271-8325) or Colleen Smith, Bureau Chief for Infectious Disease Control (colleen.smith@dhhs.nh.gov; 603-856-6829).

Sincerely,

Iain Watt
Director, Division of Public Health Services
NH Department of Health and Human Services