**Pathogens of Epidemiological Concern Gap Analysis**

Use this gap analysis to evaluate and improve strategies to prevent transmission of pathogens of epidemiolocal concern (PEC) that are included in your current infection prevention and control program.

| **Component** | **Current Process** | **Desired Process** | **Gaps identified** | **Action Plan**  | **Evaluation** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Develops and updates annually a list of target pathogens of epidemiological concern. | *Annual review of IPC program risk assessment to determine if risk score has changed from previous year* | *Include a list of specific pathogens of epidemiological concern within risk assessment to be scored. Evaluate list annually for updates* | *Currently grouping MDROs together, not separating them out. Candida auris is not included in IPC program that need to be added.* | *Update risk assessment to include section for PECS, listed and scored individually.* | *Updated risk assessment, with PECs included, reviewed, and approved by hospital’s IPC committee on 12/20/2022.* |
| Provides criteria used to determine pathogens of epidemiological concern to include on their list |  |  |  |  |  |
| Provides justification for any epidemiologically important pathogens not on their list and otherwise not targeted at hospital. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Demonstrates process for surveillance of pathogens of epidemiological concern *(e.g., clinical cultures, surveillance cultures))* |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes system to ensure prompt notification of the Infection Control Officer/Practitioner when a novel antimicrobial resistance pattern is detected. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes system to ensure Infection Control Officer/Practitioner is notified when a pathogen of epidemiological concern is identified. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes systems to ensure adherence to infection control measures, including:* Staff training and education
* Ready access to necessary supplies (i.e., personal protective equipment (PPE), alcohol-based hand sanitizer, transmission-based precautions signage, cleaning, and disinfecting supplies). Auditing staff infection control practices and providing feedback
* Visitor and patient education
* Process for communicating patient’s isolation status for inter/intra facility transfers
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Develops process for identifying patients with infectious risks such as colonization or active infections with multi drug resistant organism (MDRO), or symptoms consistent with a communicable disease and placing them in appropriate transmission-based precautions.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Considers patient’s level of risk for being colonized or infected with an MDRO, assessing factors such as: * Recent travel or healthcare exposures outside of Washington, particularly overnight healthcare internationally or in a location in the US with a higher burden of MDROs
* History of past infection with an MDRO
* Chronic conditions that require frequent visits to healthcare facilities or impair immunity
* Indwelling devices
* Recent care in a long-term acute care hospital or ventilator capable skilled nursing facility
 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes processes for notifying patient, primary caregiver, healthcare personal, and local health jurisdiction of identification of pathogen of epidemiological concern. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes process for notifying transferring facility if identified pathogen was present on admission. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes process for conducting a healthcare investigation to determine healthcare exposures where transmission may have occurred. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes process for conducting contact investigation for epidemiologically linked patients or staff. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Establishes process for discontinuing transmission-based precautions of patients with history of pathogens of epidemiolocal concern that is supported by current best practice recommendation. Refer to Resources section for best practice resources.  |  |  |  |  |  |

**References for developing Risk Assessment:**

[Health-Response-Contain-MDRO-H.pdf (cdc.gov)](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/containment/Health-Response-Contain-MDRO-H.pdf)

[survey-and-cert-letter-15-12-attachment-1.pdf (cms.gov)](https://www.cms.gov/medicare/provider-enrollment-and-certification/surveycertificationgeninfo/downloads/survey-and-cert-letter-15-12-attachment-1.pdf)