

This is a reminder for facilities that infection control and prevention (ICP) is extremely important, especially in light of the pandemic that we are currently in the midst of. One of the tools in your possession to help you manage ICP is your internal infection control plan.

Pennsylvania's ACT 52 OF 2007, MEDICAL CARE AVAILABILITY AND REDUCTION OF ERROR (MCARE) ACT, CHAPTER 4. HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS 40 P.S. § 1303.401 – 1303.411 (2007) requires facilities to develop and implement an internal infection control plan for the purpose of improving the health and safety of patients and healthcare workers. Additionally, **for new facilities** and **at the request of your surveyor for existing facilities** these plans are to be submitted to the Department of Health for review to ensure compliance under the Health Care Facilities Act and section 408(3) of MCARE.

The Department of Health would like to remind facilities to be sure your plan and policies are reviewed and up to date; and at a minimum provide evidence of meeting all elements as outlined in Section 403 of MCARE; reflect current IC standards; and identifies COVID-19 response/management, a water management plan, an antibiotic stewardship program and staff education). A good tool for you to further assess your program is to complete a LTC Facility Self-Assessment using the PA DOH IC Plan Facility Self-Assessment Tool and/or the CDC Infection Prevention and Control Assessment (ICAR) tool. Additionally, the Infection Control plans should be *specific* to your facility not a corporate or template, as the residents and facility situation are unique to your facility. As noted in the CDC/CMS Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training Course module 1 on Train PA, "Commercial or corporate policy and procedure templates may serve as a starting point for your development process. Templates should be tailored to ensure they reflect the care practices and services in your facility".

If you have any questions regarding your Infection Control Plan, we encourage you to contact the HAIP/AS program office [RA-DHHAI@pa.gov](mailto:RA-DHHAI@pa.gov) or (717)425-5422.

**Attached:** PA DOH IC Plan Took Kit - Facility Self-Assessment Tool