

# NEWSLETTER

## for Brown County Long-Term Care Facilities

Spring 2026

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### 2026 Long-Term Care Facility Training

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 from 10am-12:30pm  
via Microsoft Teams

Please send us topics you would like to learn more about for training!

We appreciate all you do for our community and the ongoing partnerships we have with you and would like to share helpful, up to date resources and information through these newsletters.

We can also be available to come to your facility and discuss best reporting practices or present information on best practices to help prevent outbreaks and go over enhanced barrier precautions for your facility.

### Send us topic suggestions or questions!

Email: [bc.health.public.ltcf@browncountywi.gov](mailto:bc.health.public.ltcf@browncountywi.gov)  
Call us: 920-448-6400

### Enhanced Barrier Precautions (EBPs)

EBPs are infection-control practices used in nursing homes to reduce the spread of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). They focus on using **gloves and gowns** during high-contact care activities (like bathing, dressing, toileting, wound care, or handling medical devices), especially for residents at higher risk.

EBPs are a broader, more preventive approach to infection control that protects both residents and healthcare staff by using protective gear during close-contact care.

#### Key Points:

- They go beyond traditional precautions by including more residents, not just those known to be infected.
- They apply to residents with: MDRO infection or colonization, indwelling medical devices (e.g., catheters and feeding tubes), and chronic wounds, even if no MDRO is confirmed.
- They are typically used throughout a resident's stay if they carry certain MDROs and/or until a device is removed or a wound heals (for others).



**Public Health**  
**Brown County**  
Health & Human Services

"Meet your HAI Infection Preventionist" on back

# Meet your HAI Infection Preventionist!

I'm Tess Hendricks, an infection preventionist with the Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program. I have been working in infection prevention for 13 years and have a total of 19 years of health care experience in a variety of settings.

So that you can get to know me better, I've prepared a short Q&A about myself.

**Q: If you could be any germ, what kind would you be?**

A: Legionella because I'd get to hang out in warm water and travel through a building's plumbing like it's a lazy river.

**Q: If you could have any superpower to prevent infections, what would it be?**

A: Ohhh, X-ray vision so that I could see where all the germs are hiding, especially targeted MDRO's like CP-CRAB and Candida auris, throughout a health care facility.

**Q: What is your favorite way to prevent infections?**

A: Cleaning and disinfection! Making sure that the surfaces in health care facilities are as germ free as possible is one of the most important pieces of infection prevention. You can't have a good infection prevention program without having solid cleaning and disinfection practices.

**Q: If germs had a theme song, what do you think it would be?**

A: There are so many good ones to choose from. I would have to say "I Will Survive" for all those very resistant germs, "Every breath you take" for all those pesky respiratory germs, and "U Can't Touch This" for those germs that require contact precautions.

**Q: If you could wave a magic wand and change anything about infection prevention, what would it be?**

A: I would change the perception of how infection prevention and infection preventionists are viewed. The things we ask for may seem silly or require some extra steps, but we are doing our best to keep residents and staff safe and healthy.

That's enough about me, let's get back to what I can do for you. As part of the HAI Prevention Program, I am here to provide infection prevention support to health care facilities. The services I provide are educational, collaborative, non-regulatory, and free of charge.

## **Services I offer include:**

- Performing on-site or remote infection control assessments of health care facilities.
- Participating in outbreak and infection control breach investigations.
- Reviewing infection prevention process to help identify needs and gaps.
- Providing education and technical assistance on a variety of infection prevention topics.

**Please reach out to me at [theresa.hendricks@dhs.wisconsin.gov](mailto:theresa.hendricks@dhs.wisconsin.gov) or 608-338-9071 with any questions you may have or requests for assistance. I look forward to meeting you!**