

INFECTION PREVENTION CONFERENCE

March 12-13, 2026

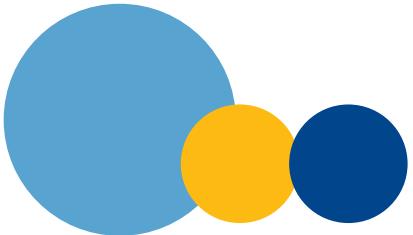
► DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Wichita Airport
Wichita, KS



Healthcare-Associated Infections
& Antimicrobial Resistance Section

In cooperation with members of the:

**Association for Professionals in Infection Control and
Epidemiology Wichita, Kansas City and Heart of America Chapters**



OVERVIEW

Thursday, March 12

8:00 a.m. Registration

8:30 a.m. Working Together in Kansas: A Public Health Update for Infection Preventionists

Cassie Stevenson, RN, CIC, and Carrie Welch, BS, CIC, Healthcare-Associated Infections & Antimicrobial Resistance Section, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Healthcare-Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance (HAI/AR) Section will give an update on current and emerging infection prevention threats in Kansas, including *Candidozyma auris* and other multidrug-resistant organisms. The session will highlight infection prevention and control (IPC) considerations and review key reportable conditions in Kansas with a focus on patient movement and care transitions, and importance of travel as Kansas prepares for FIFA World Cup 2026™ events. A key takeaway will be how healthcare facilities can connect with the KDHE HAI/AR team for guidance, reporting, and support.

Objectives

- Describe current and emerging infection prevention threats in Kansas.
- Identify key IPC challenges related to increased travel, patient movement, and care transitions associated with FIFA World Cup 2026™ events.
- Recognize when and how to engage KDHE for reportable conditions, infection prevention guidance, resources, and support.

9:00 a.m. Going Beyond the CLABSI Bundle: Building Sustainable Success

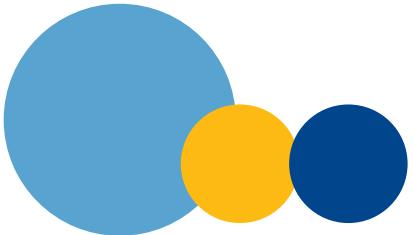
Hudson Garrett Jr. PhD

While evidence-based CLABSI bundles have significantly reduced infection rates, sustaining long-term success requires more than compliance alone. In this session, Dr. Hudson Garrett explores a multi-modal approach to reducing healthcare-associated infections by strengthening vascular access practices, optimizing standardized product selection, and fostering interprofessional collaboration. Participants will learn how high-performing organizations integrate human factors engineering, just culture principles, and teamwork strategies to hardwire reliability into daily practice. Drawing on national best practices and real-world examples, this presentation connects infection prevention efforts to the Quintuple Aim— improving patient outcomes and experience, reducing costs, supporting clinician well-being, and advancing health equity. Attendees will leave with practical tools to build competency, strengthen accountability, and sustain measurable improvement in CLABSI prevention.

Objectives

- Describe the current state of HAI Prevention across the Vascular Access Specialty
- Review the Core Practices necessary to reduce HAIs and improve clinical outcomes in Vascular Access
- Describe a Multi-Modal approach to interprofessional collaboration & change management to reduce preventable harm in Vascular Access

10:15 a.m. Networking Break with Vendor



OVERVIEW

Cont. Thursday, March 12

10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Special Pathogen Workshop: Advanced Planning to Improve Preparedness and Response Capabilities for Frontline Response to High Consequence Infectious Disease Threats
Lunch Provided and Break Included

This interactive workshop equips frontline healthcare professionals with the knowledge and hands-on skills needed to safely identify, isolate, and care for patients with high consequence infectious diseases (HCIDs) in the hospital setting. Led by experts from the Regional Emerging Special Pathogen Treatment Center (RESPTC), participants will review current HCID threats, updated Joint Commission infection control standards, and practical strategies for implementing these requirements in real-world scenarios. Through case-based learning and rotating skills stations, learners will practice PPE selection, donning and doffing, spill cleanup and Category A waste management, use of containment barriers, and safe specimen collection and transport. This course emphasizes staff safety, patient care, and healthcare system readiness for emerging infectious disease threats.

Participant Note: This is a hands-on, interactive workshop. Participants are encouraged to wear scrubs or comfortable attire suitable for skills-based activities.

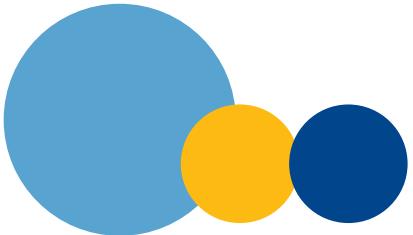
Objectives

- Explore the current HCID outbreak landscape within the US and other global communities.
- Describe the epidemiology of an outbreak and how quickly a local event can become a global concern.
- Discuss the updated Joint Commission infection control standards
- Describe implementation of the Joint Commission standards into practice, including identify, isolate and inform, zoning and staff education.
- Identify the primary components of personal protective equipment (PPE) used in healthcare settings.
- Describe the function of each PPE component and how it protects against specific transmission routes.
- Demonstrate correct donning and doffing sequence of PPE to minimize contamination risk.
 - Interactive stations will include:
 - Spill Clean-up and Waste Management
 - Demonstrate the correct steps and verbalize the rationales for the steps in managing Category A waste.
 - Demonstrate the correct steps and verbalize the rationales for the steps in spill management.
 - Use of Containment Wrap and Barriers and Breeches
 - Demonstrate and verbalize the rationales for using barriers, such as the containment wrap, when providing care to a suspect case or confirmed patient with an HCID.
 - Specimen Collection, handling (IV, Phlebotomy, Packaging)
 - Demonstrate and verbalize rationales on how to safely collect a laboratory specimen and package the specimens for transport.

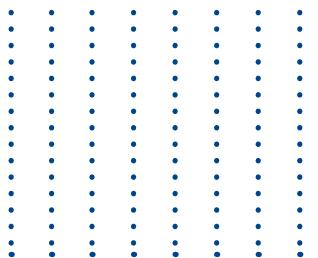
This workshop will include 4 sessions:

- Session #1: HCID Overview and Intro to NETEC, RESPTC, and NSPS
- Session #2: Identify Isolate and Inform Case Study
- Session #3: PPE Components and Build Your Own Ensemble Hands-on Activity
- Session #4: Interactive Rotating Stations
 - Spill Clean-up and waste management
 - Use of containment wrap, and barriers and breeches

5:00 p.m. Networking Reception with Vendors



OVERVIEW



Friday, March 13

7:00 a.m. Early Bird Roundtables with Breakfast

7:00 – 7:15 a.m.	Breakfast
7:15 – 7:40 a.m.	Round One
7:40 – 8:05 a.m.	Round Two
8:05 – 8:30 a.m.	Round Three

8:30 a.m. Networking Break with Vendor

**8:45 a.m. Environmental Hygiene MythBusters!
An Interactive Session to Distinguish Fact from Fiction**
Vydia Nankoosinhg, MLT, CIC, Diversey

This session, first presented at the 2025 national APIC conference, will explore preliminary results of a multiregional, multicenter observational study, wherein trained observers performed hundreds of EVS direct practice observations during discharge and daily patient room cleaning. Presenters will use interactive polling to assess the audience's expectations and then provide data from our observations and published literature to find facts and bust common myths!

Objectives

- Recognize key successes and challenges identified during daily and discharge room direct cleaning observations in patient care areas.
- Describe the evolution of peer-reviewed literature related to occupied patient room and discharge cleaning compliance.
- Identify how different cleaning activities are performed during patient area cleaning, the impact on high-touch surfaces disinfection, cross contamination and pathogen transmission risk.

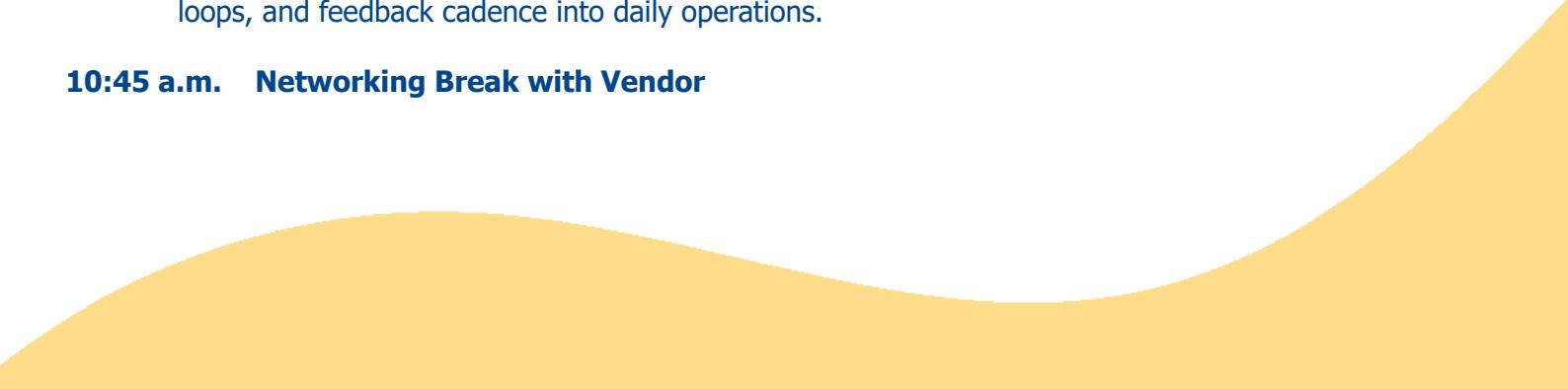
9:45 a.m. Why Good Infection Prevention Ideas Fail and How to Make Change Stick
Barley Chironda, RPN, CIC, Clorox

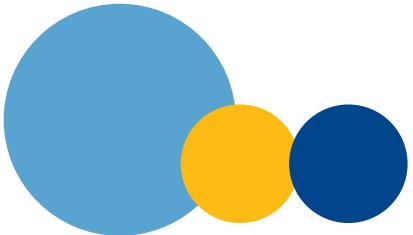
This session equips Infection Prevention leaders with practical tools to diagnose resistance, influence diverse decision-makers, and sustain behavior change during high-impact clinical and operational initiatives.

Objectives

- Recognize the primary behavioral, operational, and leadership barriers that cause infection-prevention change initiatives to stall or fail.
- Identify influence strategies to different stakeholder decision-making styles encountered in EVS, nursing, medical staff, and executive leadership.
- Apply a practical change framework to real-world IP initiatives
- Identify behavior change by embedding reinforcement mechanisms such as metrics, accountability loops, and feedback cadence into daily operations.

10:45 a.m. Networking Break with Vendor





OVERVIEW

Cont. Friday, March 13

11:00 a.m. From Plumbing to Patients: Reducing the Risk of Water

Christine Yount, MPH, REHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Water is used throughout healthcare but is not sterile and can expose patients to harmful pathogens. This session highlights how water contributes to healthcare-associated infections, and how water management programs and frontline awareness reduce risk.

Objectives

- Describe transmission risks from water to patient populations.
- Restate the four key factors that contribute to the growth and spread of opportunistic pathogens in healthcare water systems.
- Identify two ways water micro-learns directly support frontline staff in recognizing and addressing water-related infection risks.

Noon Networking Lunch

12:45 p.m. From Construction to Tap: Understanding WMC-ICRA, WICRA, and ICAR Assessments

Christine Yount, MPH, REHS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Explores how the Water Management for Construction Infection Control Risk Assessment (WMC-ICRA), Water Infection Control Risk Assessment (WICRA), and Infection Control Assessment and Response Tool work together to assess water-related infection risks across construction and patient care settings. This session highlights how these tools identify water hazards, transmission pathways, patient exposure, and program preparedness to support risk-based prevention.

Objectives

- Differentiate between Water Infection Control Risk Assessment (WICRA), the construction Infection Control Risk Assessment (ICRA), and the Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Water Module.
- Explain how the WICRA tool helps identify and reduce risks from germs in water in healthcare settings.
- Recognize the main elements assessed by the WICRA tool, including water sources, modes of transmission, patient susceptibility, patient exposure, and program preparedness.

1:45 p.m. Break

2:00 p.m. The Unforgettable Leader: How to Create a Team No One Ever Wants to Leave

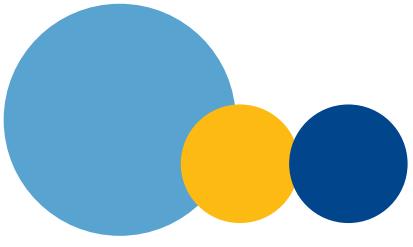
Paul Long

In today's challenging talent landscape, one truth stands out: people don't leave companies, they leave leaders. What separates forgettable managers from truly unforgettable leaders? They build the kind of teams no one wants to leave. But when leaders themselves feel disconnected, how can they possibly create the kind of cultures everyone wants to be a part of? After leading teams of thousands for a Fortune 300 company, Paul understands these critical make-or-break moments. In this deeply impactful keynote, he shares how exceptional leadership isn't about grand strategies, but deliberate choices that make people feel seen, valued, and energized every day.

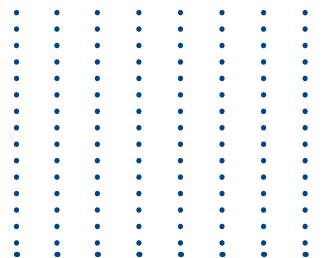
Objectives

- Identify practical ways to boost morale, trust, and retention.
- Recognize a mindset shift from managing performance to energizing people.
- Apply immediate actions to become the kind of leader people choose to follow.

3:00 p.m. Adjourn



INFORMATION



Overview

This conference will help prepare health care professionals to be facilitators and resources for surveillance, prevention and control of infections. Attendees will discover proven strategies for implementing infection prevention programs. Time will be allotted during the conference for attendees to network and discuss issues with other infection prevention professionals. All participants will receive infection prevention reference materials.

Who Should Attend

This conference is designed for infection prevention professionals in acute care, ambulatory care, long-term care, home health, mental health, correctional facilities and other interested professionals.

Location and Hotel Accommodations

This conference will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Wichita Airport, located at 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS 67209. A block of rooms has been reserved for the nights of March 11 and 12 at a rate of \$130 per night, plus tax. Please note that the room block is available until February 23. After this date, reservations will be accepted based on availability. To secure your room, call (316) 945-5272 and mention the group name "Kansas Hospital Association."

Online Hotel Reservation Link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/ictardt-909-39c6a8c2-547c-428b-a644-c6501e5aeb63/>

Continuing Education

The Kansas Hospital Association is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing (Provider No. LT 0031-0116). This course is approved for a total of fourteen (14) contact hours applicable for RN and LPN relicensure. Continuing nursing education certificates will be distributed at the end of the seminar to all paid attendees.

Attire

Scrubs or comfortable attire is suggested for Day 1 of this conference due to the interactive workshop. Business casual should be worn on Day 2. Temperatures in meeting rooms are somewhat difficult to control; therefore, we recommend you dress in layers to allow for these variances.

Special Services

If you need any of the aides or services identified in the Americans with Disabilities Act, contact the KHA Education Department at (785) 233-7436 or email mwilley@kha-net.org.

Registration Form

Infection Prevention Conference

March 12-13, 2026



Registration Fee

Fees include continental breakfast, lunch, refreshments and program materials.



Two Easy Ways to Register

Online: <https://registration.kha-net.org>

****KHA recommends using Google Chrome**

Fax: (785) 233-6955



Registration Fees: \$175 per attendee



Click Here to Register

IMPORTANT: CNE certificates cannot be issued without completion of the following information:

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone No.: _____

Email Address: _____

Nursing License Number: _____

Refund Policy

A full refund will be given for cancellations received in writing by email, fax or mail to KHA prior to 5 p.m., Wednesday, March 4, 2026. Refunds will not be issued for cancellations received after this deadline.



**Questions: Contact KHA Education Department at
(785) 233-7436 or mwilley@kha-net.org.**

