California Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF)
Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Training Resources

California Infection Preventionist (IP) Requirements
- California SNFs are required to have a full-time, dedicated IP 40 hours/week.
  - California Department of Public Health (CDPH) All-Facilities Letter (AFL) 20–84.
  - CDPH AFL 21-51.
- Role may be filled by either 1 full-time staff member or 2 staff members sharing IP responsibilities.
- Total time dedicated to the role is ≥ 1 full-time staff member.
- IP must be qualified by education, training, clinical or healthcare experience, or certification.
- IP must have completed specialized training in IPC.
  - Initial Training—minimum 14-hour program per AFL 20–84
  - Annual Training—at least 10 hours of continuing education in the field of IPC
- Primary professional training:
  - Licensed nurse
  - Medical technologist
  - Microbiologist
  - Epidemiologist
  - Public health professional
  - Other healthcare-related professional

Initial 14-Hour IP Training Options
The initial 14-hour IPC fundamentals training program should be completed by each new IP within 90 calendar days of hire. This training must be completed by each new IP if a SNF has more than one IP sharing the role. If an existing SNF employee is designated as the IP, that person should complete the initial IP training within 30 calendar days of his or her IP role designation. To fulfill the initial 14-hour training requirement, IPs are advised to access training sources through a nationally recognized IPC association. Ensure IPs receive a certificate of attendance or documentation of the learning objectives for their initial training to prove attendance and hours of completion.

The initial IPC fundamentals training should include the following topic areas:
- Role of the IP
- Infection prevention plan
- Standard, enhanced standard, and transmission-based precautions
- Hand hygiene
- Injection safety
- Healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention (e.g., respiratory, blood stream infection [BSI], urinary tract infection [UTI], scabies, *Clostridioides difficile* infection [CDI], multidrug-resistant organism [MDRO])
- Infection surveillance
- Cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, and environmental cleaning
- Microbiology
- Outbreaks
- Antibiotic stewardship
- Laws and regulations (e.g., reporting requirements)
- Preventing employee infections

Examples of courses for initial IPC fundamentals training include:
- CDPH IP Training for SNFs Online Course
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Nursing Home IP Training Course
- IPC 16-Hour Boot Camp (in-person)

Annual 10-Hour IP Training Options

To fulfill the annual 10-hour training requirement, IPs are advised to access training sources through a nationally recognized IPC association to be up to date on guidance changes or new studies that affect IPC practices. Ensure IPs receive a certificate of attendance and documentation of the learning objectives to prove attendance and hours of completion. To meet the 10-hour requirement, **IPs cannot retake the exact same course**. However, if the course has been updated from one year to another (i.e., CDPH IP Training for SNFs Online Course from 2023 was updated in 2024), it is acceptable to take the same course again in a different year because it is not the exact same course. Additionally, the 10-hour training requirement can be met by completing a course that is greater than or equal to 10 hours **or** as a series of shorter courses to make up the 10 hours of training.

Examples of courses include:
- CDPH IP Training for SNFs Online Course
  - Flyer
- CDPH HAI Program IP Training
- CDC TRAIN: CDC's Online Learning System
- CDC National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Training: Continuing Education
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality, Safety & Education Portal (QSEP)
- California Association of Healthcare Facilities (CAHF) Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) IP Specialized Training (IPCO)
- California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) IP Orientation Program
  - CALTCM IP "On Demand" 3-Hour Orientation Program
- The Association for Infection Control and Prevention (APIC) for Long-Term Care and individual APIC chapters frequently have educational presentations that provide continuing education units (CEUs)
- The Society of Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
- Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA)
- Journal articles sometimes offer CEUs (American Journal of Infection Control [AJIC], Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology [ICHE], SHEA, or IDSA)
- IPC Resources: Long-Term Care Courses

Are You Compliant with CMS F880 and F945?

- F880 requires SNFs to establish and maintain an IPC program designed to provide a safe, sanitary, and comfortable environment and to help prevent the development and transmission of communicable diseases and infections. The intent of F880 is for SNFs to develop an IPC program that:
  - Establishes a facility-wide system for the prevention, identification, reporting, investigation, and control of infections and communicable diseases of residents, staff, and visitors.
  - Develops and implements written policies and procedures for infection control.
  - Requires staff to handle, store, process, and transport all linens and laundry in accordance with accepted national standards in order to produce hygienically clean laundry and prevent the spread of infection to the extent possible.
- F945 is a CMS phase 3 requirement specific to infection control that became effective October 24, 2022. F945 requires that SNFs develop, implement, and permanently maintain an effective training program for all staff, which includes training on the standards, policies, and procedures for the facility's IPC program,

as determined by staff need.
  – For the purposes of this training requirement, staff includes all facility staff (direct and indirect care functions), contracted staff, and volunteers (training topics as appropriate to role).
- All training should support current scope and standards of practice through curricula, which detail learning objectives, performance standards, evaluation criteria, and addresses potential risks to residents, staff, and volunteers if procedures are not followed.
- SNFs must have a process in place to track staff participation in and understanding of the required training.
- Such IPC training must, at a minimum, include the following areas:
  – The facility's surveillance system designed to identify possible infections before they can spread.
  – When and to whom possible incidents of infections in the facility should be reported.
  – How and when to use standard precautions, including proper hand hygiene and environmental cleaning.
  – How and when to use transmission-based precautions for a resident.
  – Occupational health policies, including return to work restrictions and when to self-report illness or exposures.
  – Proper IPC practices when performing resident care activities.

F945 and F880 Training Tips
- Mix-and-match modules from different educational programs to form the most appropriate training for each type of staff member.
- Have a process to document staff member training: name of course, date completed, and reason for completion (e.g., at hire, annual, as needed).
- Consider the most effective educational methods to ensure staff understanding of the training (i.e., passive learning with videos and online modules versus active learning via teach-back method).
- Provide education in relevant languages.

Resources
- [CMS 483.95 Training Requirements](#)
- [CMS State Operations Manual: Appendix PP—Guidance to Surveyors for Long-Term Care Facilities (pages 851–853)](#)

Are You Compliant With the CMS Critical Elements Pathway (CEP): IPC & Immunizations

CMS CEPs are tools that surveyors use when conducting investigations and assessing a SNF's performance or practices to determine compliance with federal requirements. Use the CEP for IPC & Immunizations to ensure your SNF is compliant with F880, F881, F882, F883, and F887. Use the tool as a checklist to identify improvement opportunities to strengthen IPC practices, such as general standard precautions, hand hygiene, personal protective equipment (PPE) use for standard precautions, and transmission-based precautions. Access the CEP pathway by clicking www.cms.gov/files/zip/survey-resources-06/05/2023.zip which will download the folder "Survey Resources." Click on "LTC Survey Pathways" to access the "CMS-20054 Infection Prevention Control and Immunization" CEP document.

Training Resources for NH Staff (Non-IPs)

[CDPH HAI Program Tips on Establishing an Effective IPC Program](#)

Training Resource	Audience	Content	Accessibility
CMS Targeted COVID-19 Training for Frontline and Management Staff	All staff	Training modules include: • Hand Hygiene and PPE • Screening and Surveillance • Cleaning the nursing home (NH) • Cohorting • Caring for Residents with Dementia in a Pandemic • IPC • Emergency Preparedness and Surge Capacity • Addressing Emotional Health of Residents and Staff • Telehealth for NHs • Getting Your Vaccine Delivery System Ready	Training is accessible in QSEP • 3 hours for frontline staff • 4.5 hours for management
CDPH HAI Program Project Firstline CNA & EVS Trainings & Toolkits	CNAs EVS staff	Training toolkits tailored to CNA and EVS NH staff. This website includes ready-made trainings, discussion prompts, and other materials that trainers can use to train staff. • CNA Training Toolkit Modules: (1) Standard Precautions; (2) PPE; (3) Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection; (4) Skin, Perineal, and Urinary Catheter Care; (5) Oral Care and Feeding; (6) Positioning and Transferring; (7) Bathing and Dressing; (8) Nail Care and Shaving • EVS Training Toolkit Modules: (1) Hand Hygiene, (2) Understanding Disinfectants, (3) Setting Up an EVS Cart, (4) Cleaning and Disinfecting a Resident Room Board of Registered Nursing (BRN) Continuing Education Units (CEUs) are available on the CDPH Learning Stream website for CNA and EVS workshops.	• CDPH Learning Stream website • Project Firstline Toolkit • Print Materials Library—tools available in English and Spanish

Training Resource	Audience	Content	Accessibility
CDC Project Firstline Infection Control Training	All staff	Access promotional materials, educational materials, and training resources in a variety of formats to assist staff in learning the "how" and the "why" behind infection control in healthcare settings. Web-based training courses in CDC TRAIN, include: • Intro to Infection Control and Virus Basics • Injection Safety • PPE Basics • Respirator Basics • Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Basics • Ventilation, Source Control, and Hand Hygiene • How COVID-19 Spreads	• CDC Project Firstline • CDC TRAIN provides access to web-based training courses • CDC Educational Materials
CDC States Targeting Reduction in Infections via Engagement (STRIVE) Infection Control Training	All staff	STRIVE curricula has courses that address the technical and foundational elements of HAI prevention. Courses can be taken in any order for new employee training, annual IP training, and periodic training. Topics include: • **Foundational IP Strategies:** Competency-Based Training, Audits and Feedback, Hand Hygiene, Strategies for Preventing HAIs, Environmental Cleaning, PPE, Patient and Family Engagement, Building a Business Case for IP. • **Targeted Prevention Strategies:** Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI), Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus* (MRSA) Bacteremia, Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infection (CLABSI), CDI.	Training tools
HSAG IP Training Resources and Bundles	IP, leadership, EVS managers	Education resources and tools for common HAIs including: COVID-19, CDI, influenza, pneumonia, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), UTIs, and sepsis. Vaccine resources and prevention intervention tools available to strengthen enhanced barrier precautions, antibiotic stewardship, hand hygiene, PPE, oral care, and environmental cleaning and disinfection.	• Adherence monitoring tools, video trainings, posters, bundles, and assessment tools • HSAG & CDPH Train-the-Trainer webpage