The University of Chicago
Infection Prevention Outreach
Rising infection rates are dangerous in any setting—are you doing enough?

Healthcare-associated infections account for as many deaths as HIV, breast cancer, and motor vehicle accidents combined. Increased infection rates have alerted oversight and accreditation bodies, putting new external pressures on bringing healthcare-associated infections under better control.

Schools and residential facilities face the unique challenge of preventing the spread of infection among people in close proximity. The increasing emergence of multi-drug resistant organisms makes these settings particularly vulnerable to infectious illness.

Businesses struggling with high infection rates put the health of their employees at risk. Absenteeism from illnesses can bring work to a halt and take a toll on company productivity.

Get solutions from the experts.

University of Chicago Infection Prevention (UCIP) Outreach tailors programs to deliver practical, evidence-based, and sustainable solutions that effectively limit the frequency and consequences of infection. Our experts—from the Sections of Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Chicago and the University of Chicago Medical Center’s Infection Control Program—are exceptionally well prepared to make your organization a healthier, safer environment.

Choose one or several of our programs to meet your organization’s needs.
Our programs are designed to help keep your organization healthy.

**Readiness Review**

**Be prepared.** In this evaluation, UCIP Outreach experts visit your organization and conduct a thorough assessment of risk and performance. Through a comprehensive examination of policies, practices, and climate, UCIP Outreach will detail infectious threats and improvement opportunities, which will provide the greatest return on investment and can be integrated into routine operations. Experts will also evaluate your preparation to meet regulatory standards and to comply with local jurisdiction. UCIP Outreach staff will provide a series of checkpoints to ensure your organization is moving in the right direction.

**Performance Improvement**

**Reach your long-term goals.** Develop the path to a targeted operational need, economic outcome, or regulatory aim through this in-depth initiative. UCIP Outreach will support your team on a consulting basis, making regular visits to your organization to help monitor existing programs and to advance action plans. Our experts will actively engage in the conception, development, and deployment of your improvement effort.

**Education & Training**

**Build expertise.** UCIP Outreach provides on-site educational workshops and seminars to supplement your existing programs in preventing infection and maintaining readiness for potential threats. Clients can also select from a range of print and online educational components to pinpoint specific needs and continue staff education in a flexible setting. For a more in-depth training experience, have your clinical staff shadow our experts on the University of Chicago’s Hyde Park campus.

**Response Services**

**Meet challenges head-on.** UCIP Outreach has the experience to guide you through unexpected infectious challenges. Experts can help contain infection outbreaks, plan for pandemics, provide strategies for internal communications, and respond to public pressure—acting as a liaison with external authorities. Our solutions are evidence-based and cost-effective. UCIP Outreach will visit your organization to assess immediately risk and response, gaps and opportunities.
Our approach is tailored to meet your unique needs.

The UCIP Outreach difference

**Vertical integration**
UCIP Outreach experts examine opportunities for preventing infection at all levels of the organization. Frontline employees (teachers, sales force, nurses) as well as senior leaders (school principals, CFOs and COOs, hospital executives) are all targets for UCIP Outreach interventions. The assessments and plans developed by UCIP Outreach help ensure your organization’s resources are properly aligned, from top to bottom.

**Practical and proven methods**
The best strategies for preventing infection have been developed in hospitals and healthcare facilities over the past half century. UCIP Outreach has used risk assessment, surveillance, focused performance improvement, education, and sustainability programs to dramatically reduce infection rates in the challenging setting of an academic referral medical center. This same approach could have a dramatic impact on how business is conducted at your organization.

**Broad application**
The experience and expertise of the UCIP Outreach team can add value to institutions that are struggling with the basic tools of infection control and prevention, and also to those seeking a higher level of control, often by implementing cutting-edge methods and technology.

**Scalability**
UCIP Outreach addresses the specific needs of our client organizations. Whether engaging in a single Readiness Review to assess your risks, or requesting an outreach relationship for Performance Improvement that could span years, your organization can find the services and expertise it needs in UCIP Outreach.
Meet our team.

**Stephen G. Weber, MD, MS**  
*Associate Professor of Medicine*

Stephen G. Weber, Associate Professor of Medicine, is the Medical Director of Infection Control and Clinical Quality and serves as Chief Healthcare Epidemiologist at the University of Chicago. He specializes in antimicrobial resistant infections in vulnerable populations, particularly geriatric patients. Dr. Weber’s research interests include the diffusion of best practices in infection prevention, and he has authored multiple studies on the prevention and management of healthcare-associated infections.

**Emily Landon Mawdsley, MD**  
*Instructor of Medicine*

Emily Landon Mawdsley is Instructor of Medicine in the Section of Infectious Diseases and Global Health, the Associate Healthcare Epidemiologist, and Medical Director of the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program at the University of Chicago. Her research focuses on understanding behavioral determinants of adherence to best practices in infection prevention, especially with respect to hand hygiene and antimicrobial use.

**Jennifer Burns, CPNP, APN**  
*Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner*

Jennifer Burns provides pediatric infectious diseases inpatient consultation service at the University of Chicago Medical Center. The consultative care of these patients is often complex and includes management of patients in the neonatal and pediatric ICUs, and care of children with HIV and AIDS, as well as care of oncology and transplantation patients.

**Sylvia Garcia-Houchins, RN, MBA, CIC**  
*Director, Infection Control Program*

Sylvia Garcia-Houchins is Director of the Infection Control Program at the University of Chicago Medical Center and has provided infection prevention and control consultation in a variety of healthcare settings, including hospitals, clinics, long-term care facilities, and dialysis centers.

**Heather M. Limper, MPH**  
*Project Coordinator, Section of Infectious Diseases*

Heather M. Limper is the Project Coordinator in the Section of Infectious Diseases and Global Health at the University of Chicago. Her expertise lie in infectious disease epidemiology. Heather’s research has focused on the association of healthcare worker behavior and infection control and prevention in the hospital setting.

**Kenneth Alexander, MD, PhD**  
*Professor of Pediatrics*

Kenneth Alexander, Professor of Pediatrics, serves as the Chief of the Section of Pediatric Infectious Diseases at the University of Chicago. He is the cochair of the Committee on Adolescent Immunization for the Illinois Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
Start improving your organization’s health today.

Visit infectionprevention.uchicago.edu and click on the UCIP Outreach tab.