



Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services



## Vermont Healthcare-Associated Infection Collaborative to Discuss Prevention Strategies

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BURLINGTON – Every Vermont hospital, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, and most of the state’s nursing homes have joined together with the Vermont Department of Health, the Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a statewide collaborative to prevent healthcare-associated infections such as MRSA (multidrug - resistant Staph aureus).

The collaborative, a unique partnership between the State of Vermont and the CDC that will serve as a national model, will hold its second Learning Session on January 14, 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Montpelier.

More than 150 Vermont healthcare professionals working in acute-care and long-term care settings have registered for the Learning Session.

Discussions will be led by infection control experts Nimalie Stone, MD, and Alex Kallen, MD, from the CDC, as well as infection prevention experts from Vermont healthcare facilities.

The Health Department established the MDRO (multidrug - resistant organism) Prevention Collaborative in September 2010, with funding from the CDC. Preventing healthcare-associated infections has been identified by CDC as one of the six “winnable battles” in public health.

“Because patients tend to move between facilities in a community, it’s especially important that staff from both types of facilities have an opportunity to work together and learn from each other,” said Patsy Kelso, state epidemiologist for infectious disease at the Health Department.

For the Learning Session agenda, visit [healthvermont.gov](http://healthvermont.gov). To read Patsy Kelso’s blog entry on Vermont’s collaborative at CDC’s website visit: [http://blogs.cdc.gov/safehealthcare/index.html?s\\_cid=ncezid\\_govd\\_001](http://blogs.cdc.gov/safehealthcare/index.html?s_cid=ncezid_govd_001)

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