



Infection Control Assessment and Response Visit Basics

Infection control assessment and response (ICAR) visits are an important step in outbreak investigations, particularly in long-term care (LTC) settings. The goal of an ICAR visit is to identify any infection control issues and help the facility resolve these problems. The “Infection Control Assessment Tool” in the COVID-19 infection prevention toolkit lists specific policies and practices to look for during a COVID-19 outbreak. This document provides additional information about how to conduct ICAR visits in general and should serve as a helpful reference for LHD nurses who have not completed many ICAR visits or who are not familiar with doing so in a LTC setting.

ICAR Basics

- [Environmental Assessment: Long-Term Care Facilities](#): Video from the North Carolina Statewide Program for Infection Control and Epidemiology (NC SPICE) that shows what to look for during an ICAR visit in a LTCF.
- [CDC Assessment Tool for Long-Term Care Facilities](#): Detailed checklist of infection control practices that should be observed in LTCFs.
- [Preparing LTCs for COVID-19](#): CDC webinar describing the control measures a LTCF should have in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks.
- [Infection Prevention and Control Resources](#): Collection of links to CDC and WHO guidance for various topics that may need to be addressed during an ICAR visit.

Learn More

- [Nursing Home Infection Preventionist Training](#): Free course through the CDC that provides CNE credits. There are modules on many topics that can be helpful if you need to learn about best practices for a specific area of infection prevention.
- [CDC/STRIVE Infection Control Training](#): Several free courses through the CDC that provide CNE credits. The first module, “Competency-based training, audits, and feedback,” teaches how to deliver infection prevention information, assess infection prevention practices, and provide constructive feedback to facilities.