



INFECTION CONTROL ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE PROJECT: A COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES AND THE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR MISSOURI NURSING HOMES

The Quality Improvement Program for Missouri's Nursing Homes (QIPMO) is partnering with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) in response to the novel Coronavirus known as COVID-19. In doing so, QIPMO has formed a new Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) team with a primary goal of assisting Missouri Long-Term Care Facilities to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and other infectious diseases.

Members of the ICAR Team are available for voluntary, no cost visits (virtual and/or in-person) to any residential care, assisted living, and skilled nursing facility in Missouri. These visits are intended to be consultative and collaborative in nature with a non-regulatory focus to evaluate infection control practices. Visits will consist of:

- completion of a standardized assessment of infection control processes, focusing on highly transmittable infectious diseases
- observations of infection control practices
- preliminary feedback with supplemental educational resources

Participating facilities will receive a comprehensive feedback report following the visit. Additionally, the QIPMO ICAR team will be available to participating homes for follow-up assistance and education as requested.

It is the goal of this project to visit (virtual or in-person) 60% of all long-term care facilities in Missouri by the end of 2022. Assisted living facilities and residential care facilities, along with prioritized skilled nursing facilities, will be among the first recruited for an ICAR Team assessment. In person visits will only take place once facilities reopen and can safely allow visitors.

Funding for this project was made possible through the ELC Enhancing Detection Emerging Issues (E) Project: Funding for the Detection, Response, Surveillance, and Prevention of COVID-19 which is supported through the Paycheck Protection Program and the Health Care Enhancement Act of 2020.

Facilities interested in assessing their infection prevention programs and partnering to enhance patient safety through quality facility assessment, staff education and training can contact the QIPMO ICAR Team at musonicarproject@missouri.edu or at (573) 882-0241.