

# ICNC Webinar Recap

May 27, 2026



## Quick recap

This meeting focused on infection prevention topics and updates for long-term care facilities. Julie led the discussion about splash zones, sharing CDC guidelines that require cleaning and disinfecting surfaces within 3 feet of sinks daily, avoiding medication preparation near sinks, and using splash guards when space is limited. Kelly provided additional insights about MDRO outbreaks linked to sink hygiene and recommended specific EPA-approved disinfectants for sink drain cleaning during outbreak situations. The group also discussed the importance of removing corrugated cardboard from patient care areas as it provides ideal conditions for bug infestations. Julie announced an upcoming in-person meeting scheduled for October 21st at Glastonbury Hills Country Club and requested vendor and speaker participation. The conversation ended with updates about enhanced barrier precautions still being questioned on surveys, NHSN reporting requirements, including new treatment data collection, and guidance about petroleum-based products being restricted for residents on oxygen therapy.

## Next steps

### Julie

- Send out updated educational needs assessment form (with free text option) for the DPH HAI event to the group and via CT Connect.
- Post the CDC splash zone resource on the group's website.
- Post CDC signage about enhanced barrier precautions on the group's website.
- Send out "save the date" for the October 21st in-person meeting at Glastonbury Hills Country Club via CT Connect.
- Add new members (e.g., Crystal) to CT Connect and update email addresses as requested.
- Share any new information or recordings found regarding NHSN treatment module education via CT Connect or the website.
- Continue efforts to recruit Kathy to return and participate in group activities.

### Kelly

- Share the names of the two EPA-approved sink drain disinfectants with the group.
- Share resources or answer questions about sink drains and splash zone management as needed.

### Collaboration

- All attendees: Review and consider suggesting vendors and/or speakers for the October in-person event and send suggestions to Julie.
- All attendees: Review current practices regarding splash zones, storage of personal items/supplies near sinks, and removal of corrugated cardboard from patient care areas; implement necessary changes and communicate to staff.

# ICNC Webinar Recap

May 27, 2026



- All attendees: Review and update facility protocols regarding use of petroleum/mineral oil products on residents on oxygen therapy, including staff education and signage.
- All attendees: Ensure NHSN reporting is up to date and discuss with corporate (if applicable) about opting in/out of new NHSN treatment modules.
- All attendees: Ensure signage about immunizations (flu/COVID) is posted and information is available to staff and residents.
- All attendees: Review and, if necessary, update processes for educating families and staff about enhanced barrier precautions and document communication methods.
- All attendees: Consider participating in the planning of the October event and/or the luncheon, and inform Julie if interested.

## Summary

### October Meeting Planning Update

Julie announced that Abby was unable to join the meeting due to a sick child at daycare, and Kelly agreed to share Abby's intended content. Julie discussed technical issues with managing the waiting room settings and noted that attendance would likely be low due to the holiday week. Julie announced an upcoming in-person meeting scheduled for October at Glastonbury Hills Country Club, and requested vendors and additional speakers to participate in the program.

### Healthcare Splash Zone Guidelines

Julie discussed the importance of splash zones in healthcare settings, particularly in medication rooms, and shared guidelines from the CDC and QIO regarding proper cleaning and disinfection of surfaces near sinks. She emphasized avoiding medication preparation and supply storage within three feet of sinks and recommended using splash guards when space is limited. Julie also mentioned plans to post the detailed splash zone guidelines on their website and expressed the need to recruit Kathy to join their team.

### Infection Control and Hygiene Practices

Julie and Kelly discussed infection control practices, focusing on sink hygiene and proper storage of personal and medical supplies. Kelly emphasized that no food or waste should go in sink items and highlighted the importance of using EPA-approved disinfectants for sink drain disinfection during outbreaks. They also discussed the need to change personal items like toothbrushes regularly and avoid storing supplies in bathrooms. Julie stressed the importance of removing corrugated cardboard from medical and supply rooms to prevent bug infestations.

### Corrugated Tubing and Event Planning

Kelly discussed concerns about corrugated tubing attracting bugs and mold, explaining that while shipping boxes are acceptable for supply receipt, they should be removed from patient care areas once delivered. Julie mentioned an upcoming October event and asked for input on planning, to which Kelly offered HAI's support. Kelly also

# ICNC Webinar Recap

May 27, 2026



described a separate DPH HAI educational event being planned for fall, with plans to distribute a survey via CT Connect to gather input on desired infection prevention education topics.

## **ICNC and Infection Control Updates**

Julie announced that the ICNC will be held on October 21st at Glastonbury Hills Country Club and mentioned that a save the date will be sent out via CT Connect. She discussed a recent infection control issue regarding the use of petroleum-based products with residents on oxygen therapy, noting that three IJs have been issued due to this concern. Julie advised facilities to educate staff about restrictions on using petroleum products on the head, neck, chest, and ears, and suggested implementing signage and notifications to families about these restrictions. She also mentioned that some surveyors are still asking questions about enhanced barrier precautions, including signage requirements, though it's not explicitly required by regulations.

## **CDC Signage and Reporting Updates**

Julie discussed CDC signage requirements and recommended posting immunization information near lobbies, including COVID vaccine availability for residents and staff. She mentioned that NHSN reporting continues despite no fines for non-compliance, with new questions about COVID and flu treatments being added to future surveys. Julie also highlighted Xofluza as a potential treatment option for flu, noting its advantages over traditional treatments based on creatinine clearance.

## **NHSN Reporting and Luncheon Planning**

Nishima asked Julie about the NHSN reporting requirements and confirmed that opting in requires reporting all three conditions (RSV, flu, and treatment). Nishima decided to opt out at the building level pending more training, though will discuss with corporate leadership. Julie announced plans for an upcoming luncheon where the ICMC will cover lunch costs, and requested vendor suggestions from participants to help secure sponsors.

*Thank you for your time,*

*Julie*

**Julie Romanowski, BSN, QCP, CIC, RN**

Regional Director of Clinical Operations

National Health Care Associates, Inc.

850 Silas Deane Highway

Wethersfield, CT 06109

C: 860.604.1240

[jromanowski@nhca.com](mailto:jromanowski@nhca.com)

# ICNC Webinar Recap

May 27, 2026



**Well-Being Notice:** Are you receiving this email outside your normal work hours? Managing work and life responsibilities is unique for everyone. I have sent this email at a time that works for me; Please respond at a time that works for you.