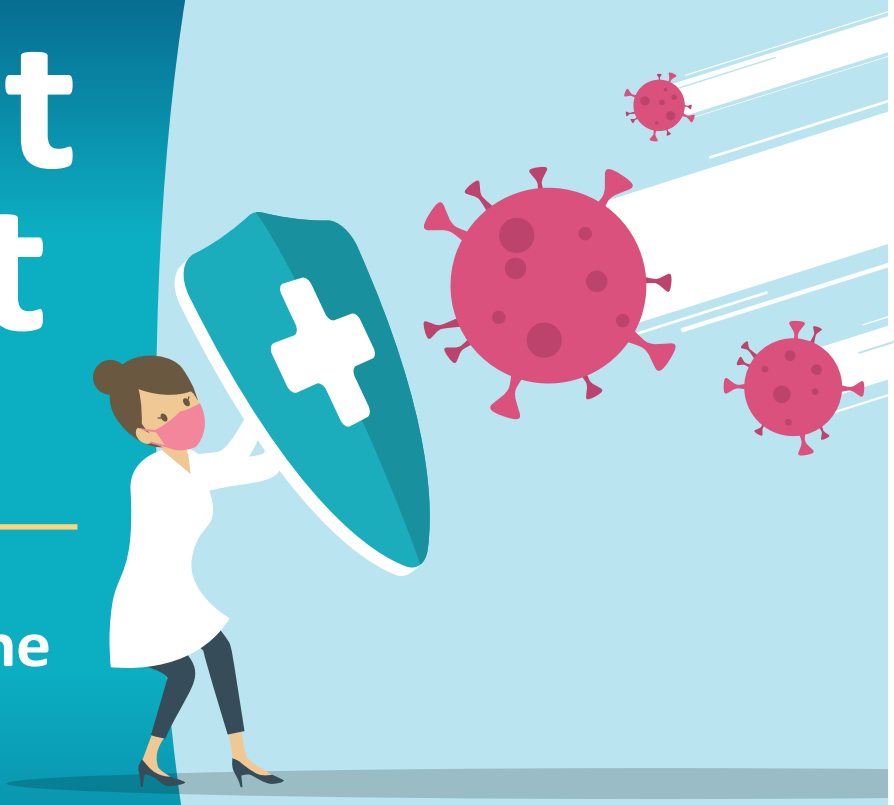
2026 KHA DAY FOR INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS

Prevent Protect Prevail

Advancing Infection Prevention Across the Continuum of Care

SAVE THE DATE!
NOVEMBER 6, 2026



LOCATION:
CityPlace Expo Center
112 South 1st Avenue
La Grange, Kentucky 40031

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Online Registration Deadline: October 29, 2026

Cost: $100

Register online at: https://kyha.memberclicks.net/2026-day-for-infection-preventionists

HOTEL RECOMMENDATION

Holiday Inn Express & Suites La Grange
1150 Commerce Parkway
La Grange, KY 40031

Rate: See hotel website for best room rates

Designed for infection preventionists and hospital clinical and quality leaders, KHA's Day for Infection Preventionists (IP Day) explores the emerging challenges, technologies, partnerships, and leadership strategies shaping the future of infection prevention and patient safety. Attendees will gain practical insights on using AI for HAI prevention, antimicrobial and diagnostic stewardship, workforce and succession planning, emerging infectious disease threats, accreditation, and organizational leadership – with actionable ideas they can take back to strengthen infection prevention efforts across their organizations.

CANCELLATION POLICY

Written notice of registration cancellation must be received **more than 14 days prior to the event** to be eligible for a refund, less a $50 cancellation fee. **No refunds will be issued for cancellations received within 14 days of the event,** including no-shows. Substitutions from the same organization are welcome at any time prior to the event.

SPECIAL NEEDS

KHA wishes to take all steps necessary to ensure no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated, or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services. If you need any such assistance or services, please contact KHA at 502-426-6220.

7:45 - 8:15 a.m. (ET)
Registration and Breakfast

8:15 - 8:30 a.m.
Welcome
Casey Franklin
Associate Vice President of Quality and Health Professions
Kentucky Hospital Association

8:30 - 9:30 a.m.
KEYNOTE: Beyond the Checklist: The Stories We Don't Tell About Infection Prevention, Quality, and the Courage to Lead
Donna Garby, MLD, BSN, RN
Senior Standards Interpretation Specialist
Accreditation Commission for Healthcare (ACHC)

What separates infection prevention programs that merely comply from those that truly thrive? Drawing on experiences from accreditation surveys, executive leadership, and hospital quality improvement, this keynote explores the hidden organizational and cultural barriers that hold infection prevention (IP) programs back – and how courageous leadership can transform them into powerful drivers of patient safety.

Objectives:

- Identify organizational and cultural barriers that commonly limit the effectiveness of infection prevention programs.
- Interpret accreditation findings as opportunities to strengthen quality improvement, patient safety, and organizational performance rather than simply achieve regulatory compliance.
- Apply practical leadership strategies to build influence, engage stakeholders, and advance infection prevention initiatives across the continuum of care.

9:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Networking Break with Sponsors

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Beyond the Bundle: How Artificial Intelligence is Transforming HAI Prevention, Product Selection, and Patient Outcomes
Dr. Hudson Garrett, PhD, MSN, MPH, MBA
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Medicine
Division of Infectious Diseases, Department of Medicine
University of Louisville School of Medicine

Health care-associated infections remain a persistent threat to patient safety, and hospitals are under increasing pressure to prevent them with fewer resources. Artificial intelligence (AI) offers infection preventionists, value analysis professionals, and clinical leaders powerful new capabilities, from predictive surveillance and real-time risk stratification to evidence synthesis that strengthens product evaluation and purchasing decisions. This session examines how AI can be practically and responsibly integrated into HAI prevention programs, including its role in evidence-based product evaluation, organizational risk assessment, and outcome measurement. Participants will explore real-world applications, understand the limitations and governance considerations that accompany AI adoption, and leave with actionable strategies for using these tools to reduce infections, support clinical decision-making, and demonstrate improved outcomes across their organizations.

Objectives:

- Describe current and emerging applications of AI in health care-associated infection surveillance, prediction, and prevention.
- Apply AI-enabled tools and evidence-based methodologies to the evaluation and selection of infection prevention products and technologies.
- Integrate AI-supported risk assessment strategies into organizational infection prevention programs to improve clinical outcomes and demonstrate measurable value.

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Success Planning: How to Address Infection Prevention and Control Workforce and Leadership Turnover and Changes
Dr. Ruth Carrico, PhD, DNP, APRN, FNP-C, CIC, FSHEA, FNAP, FAAN
Senior Consultant
Carrico & Ramirez, PLLC

The role and job responsibilities for the infection preventionist remain a continual stage of evolution. Consequently, the responsibilities for program maintenance, vision, growth, and stability extend beyond those in leadership roles and involve department staffing and the health care workforce in general. This session will explore succession planning as a means of program maintenance, growth, and stability and provide practical approaches that align with the changes in health care as well as the strategic vision of health care organizations.

Objectives:

- Review basic responsibilities of the infection prevention and control department as the basis for staffing decisions.
- Translate those responsibilities into those necessary for short- and long-term management and leadership.
- Use those responsibilities to outline a basic strategy for succession planning as a means for sustainable operations.

12:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Lunch

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Bugs, Drugs, and Daily Doubles: The Infection Prevention Challenge
KHA Quality Team

Join your colleagues and friends in a little bit of Jeopardy-style learning fun! Explore your knowledge and pick up tidbits and tricks on many crucial and timely topics, such as PPE, new IP practice trends, emerging pathogens, diagnostic stewardship, and more!

2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Networking Break with Sponsors

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Antimicrobial Stewardship and Infection Prevention: Partnering to Improve Patient Outcomes and Reduce HAIs

Dr. Matthew Song, PharmD, BCIDP
Supervisor, Infectious Disease Pharmacist
Chair, Norton Antimicrobial Stewardship Program

This presentation on Antimicrobial Stewardship will explore how Infection Prevention professionals can partner with stewardship programs to improve patient outcomes and reduce health care-associated infections. The goal is to provide attendees with practical, real-world insights and strategies they can take back to their organizations and put into practice.

Objectives:

- Describe how antimicrobial stewardship teams and infection prevention (IP) can work together to improve patient outcomes and reduce health care-associated infections (HAIs).
- Apply diagnostic stewardship principles to promote appropriate diagnostic testing, reduce unnecessary testing, and minimize avoidable antimicrobial treatment.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration across departments to strengthen diagnostic and antimicrobial stewardship efforts and support consistent, evidence-based patient care.

3:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Emerging Threats Update: What is Keeping Kentucky IPs Up at Night? What Every IP Needs to Know in 2026-2027

Cody Rocha, MPH, MPA, CIC, LTC-CIP, PMP
Outbreak Response Lead
Kentucky Department for Public Health
Healthcare-Associated Infection/Antibiotic Resistance Prevention Program

This session will review emerging and evolving infectious disease threats facing Kentucky health care facilities in 2026-2027. Drawing on recent outbreak investigations and statewide surveillance data, the presentation will outline what facilities should be watching for in the coming year.

Objectives:

- Identify emerging and evolving infectious disease threats and infection prevention challenges that may impact Kentucky health care facilities in 2026-2027.
- Describe current and anticipated infection prevention concerns, including changes in epidemiology, multidrug-resistant organisms, novel pathogens, and other threats requiring enhanced surveillance and preparedness.
- Apply practical strategies and available resources to strengthen facility surveillance, preparedness, and response to emerging infection prevention threats.

4:30 p.m.

Wrap Up

Casey Franklin
Associate Vice President of Quality and Health Professions
Kentucky Hospital Association

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Qualified

5 CONTACT HOURS

By attending the Environment of Care Conference offered by the Kentucky Hospital Association, participants may earn up to **5 ACHE Qualifying Education Hours** toward initial certification or recertification of the Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE) designation.

American College of Healthcare Executives *for leaders who care ®*

ACHE Kentucky Chapter

Kentucky Board of Nursing

6 CONTACT HOURS

The Kentucky Hospital Association is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Kentucky Board of Nursing (KBN). KBN approval of a continuing nursing education provider does not constitute endorsement of program content. This educational activity is offered for **6 contact hours,** with offering number **5-5-0023-12-27-27,** expiration date 12-31-2027. No partial credit will be given. To receive credit, participants must attend the entire educational offering, provide their nursing license number, and complete the offering evaluation. After the conclusion of this webinar, a QR code for survey completion will be provided. **The survey must be completed on 11/06/2026 in order for the attendee to receive the CEU certificate.** Failure to complete any step in the process outlined above will result in non-issuance of CEU credit in accordance with KBN guidelines.

Kentucky Board of Nursing

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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