

Minnesota Centers for Enhanced Response

What is the CER Program?

Centers for Enhanced Response (CER) are health care facilities that collaborate actively with local, regional, and state partners to develop and maintain the capability for early identification, isolation, and informing key partners of a patient with a suspected or confirmed High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID).

Why Participate?

- To establish a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Program and hospitals to identify HCID preparedness gaps and further development of resources.
- To conduct an assessment of a hospital's overall readiness for preventing the transmission of HCIDs.

High Consequence Infectious Diseases

HCIDs include any confirmed or suspected infection with a pathogen that meets either of the following criteria:

1. Pathogens for which all forms of medical waste (including patient excreta, secreta, blood, tissue, tissue swabs, and specimens in transport media) are classified as Category A Infectious Substances (UN2814) by the U.S. Department of Transportation¹

OR

2. A pathogen with the potential to cause a high mortality rate among otherwise non-critically ill immunocompetent people for which no routine vaccine exists and has one or both of the following characteristics:
 - a. At least some types of direct clinical specimens pose generalized risks to laboratory personnel
 - b. Known risk of secondary airborne spread within health care settings or unknown mode of transmission

¹Does not include pathogens for which only cultures are considered Category A Infectious Substances.

How to Enroll in the CER Program

To enroll in the CER Program, facilities are asked to complete the Minnesota Centers for Enhanced Response (CER) Assessment Tool, which can be found in the High Consequence Infectious Disease (HCID) Toolbox for Frontline Health Care Facilities (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/hcid/index.html>).

Please note once you start the online assessment, the REDCap system assigns you a unique access code. If you need to exit and return to the assessment, you will need to log in with your unique access code.

Tip: For more flexibility, you may want to print the Minnesota Centers for Enhanced Response (CER) Assessment Tool PDF, fill it out by hand, and then enter all questions at once into the online tool.

For more information, please contact the MDH-ICAR staff at health.icar@state.mn.us.

Next Steps:

The ICAR team is automatically notified once the CER assessment is submitted online. The ICAR team will contact the CER facility via phone or email.

1. Either a telephone or an on-site visit will be scheduled as requested by the facility.
2. Follow-up consultation with the ICAR team will determine facility specific gaps for which recommendations and resources will be provided.
3. Enrolled CER facilities will receive HCID materials.
4. CER facilities will be asked to complete a brief 6-month follow-up survey to evaluate ongoing needs.

Note: Enrollment in the CER program is free. The main goal of this program is to develop a partnership between MDH and frontline CER facilities to determine needed resources and provide assistance.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5414.