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HAI Reporting

Humbaugh, Kraig (CHFS PH) <Kraig.Humbaugh@ky.gov>

Wed, Jun 22, 2011 at 4:09 PM

To: Kevin Kavanagh <kavanagh.ent@gmail.com>

Dr. Kavanagh,

I haven't officially checked the numbers recently, but reported outbreaks in health care facilities still tend to be largely from long-term care facilities.

The definition of outbreak in our public health practice reference is: "Outbreak – is the occurrence of cases of a communicable disease in a particular area and period of time, which is in excess of the expected number of cases." I spoke with representatives of other state health departments at a national epidemiology meeting which I attended last week. Many other states define outbreak in a similar way.

It's difficult to include a specific threshold number of cases in the definition, since each outbreak is truly more than the usual number of cases expected. In a facility setting, this implies that each facility is familiar with its baselines.

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From: Kevin Kavanagh [mailto:kavanagh.ent@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 13, 2011 11:49 AM
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Subject: HAI Reporting

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