



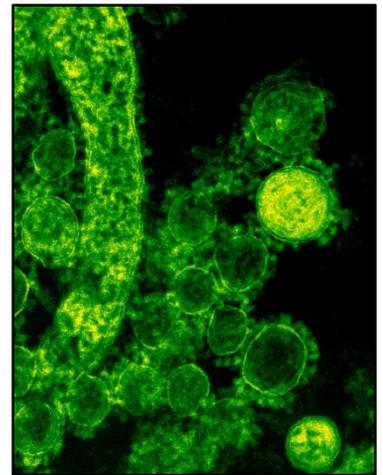
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Health Department Receives National Grant to Reduce Healthcare-Associated Infections

Eau Claire, WI May 16, 2016 – The Eau Claire City-County Health Department is one of eleven health departments in the nation to be awarded funding in the amount of \$25,000 to help prepare and respond to infectious diseases. The funding is provided by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Funding will enable the health departments to work more closely with healthcare partners to address needs and opportunities in the community related to healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).



HAIs are typically infections people get while receiving medical care. These infections include illnesses such as C. difficile and MRSA. Every year in the U.S. more than 700,000 healthcare-associated infections are reported. Additionally about 70,000 individuals with HAIs die in the hospital. Wisconsin's data shows lower rates of HAIs than national data, but there is work to do. "Healthcare facilities have expressed interest in working together to reduce these infections," states Paulette Magur, nursing supervisor at the Eau Claire City-County Health Department, "This funding enables us to strengthen our partnerships to strategically tackle the issue."

The Eau Claire City-County Health Department will use the funding to increase their capacity to collect, analyze, and report local HAI data. They will work with hospitals, long-term care facilities, and others to build an HAI Coalition. In addition, a health department staff member will become nationally certified in infection control.

For more information about HAIs, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/>

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