

APIC GRAND CANYON - 088

Newsletter



2026 Momentum--Striving for People, Purpose, and Prevention.

As we move forward in 2026, our chapter remains grounded in our strategic pillars: People, Purpose, and Practice.

People: Our members are the heart of our chapter. We value you and your input. Thank you to the 33% of members who participated in our 2026 Membership Needs Assessment. Your feedback is directly shaping our education, engagement strategy, and professional development opportunities this year.

Purpose: We are advancing prevention science across Arizona through strong statewide collaborations. In January, we launched impactful partnerships focused on SSI prevention and introduced a statewide Global Health Survey initiative in collaboration with public health and academic partners.

Practice: This quarter, in partnership with state and county public health leaders, we continue delivering timely education on measles updates, outbreak data, and SSI prevention—translating information into actionable strategies for frontline infection preventionists. Together, through collaboration and commitment, we are strengthening prevention efforts and advancing patient safety across Arizona.

Kristin Grimes

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Community Update: Measles

Measles (Rubeola) was declared eliminated in the U.S. in 2000 due to high vaccination rates. However, it is not eradicated globally, and recent declines in vaccination coverage have led to a resurgence of cases. Arizona saw 220 measles cases in 2025, largely due to an ongoing outbreak in Northern Arizona.

Throughout the US communities with low vaccination rates continue to see outbreaks that can be difficult to control. Last year the US had 49 outbreaks compared to only 16 in 2024.

Measles symptoms typically begin 7–14 days after exposure with a high fever, cough, runny nose (coryza), and red/watery eyes (conjunctivitis). A characteristic red, blotchy rash develops 3–5 days after initial symptoms, spreading from the hairline/face down to the body. Tiny white spots (Koplik spots) may appear inside the mouth.

- Transmission: Airborne
- R0 (R naught): 12-18



Member Spotlight

This month's member spotlight is Martin Caudillo!

Martin has been an Infection Preventionist for three years and serves as our Webmaster and Social Media Administrator. One of Martin's biggest milestones was helping lead the trial of the first AI-driven PPE and hand hygiene training platform in the U.S.

In his free time, he enjoys traveling and music festivals. He is passionate about expanding outreach to students and healthcare organizations while highlighting the importance of infection prevention.



APIC Toolbox- Measles Toolkit

Developed by the APIC Emerging Infectious Diseases Task Force to help infection preventionists rapidly activate measles prevention efforts

The playbook is a concise workflow document that is designed to be user-friendly and operational for busy infection preventionists

[Click Here to Download the APIC Measles Playbook](#)





Upcoming Events

Chapter Meetings

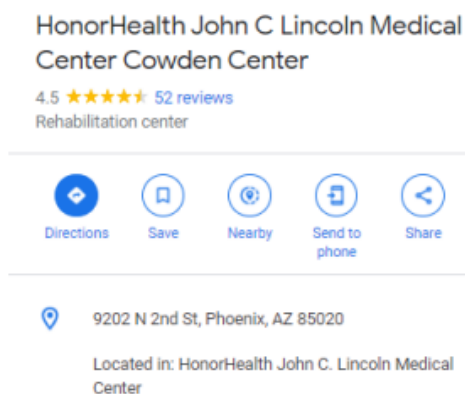
- March 27th 1pm-3pm
 - Honor Health John C Lincoln
- April 24th 1pm-3pm
 - Banner University Medical Center Tucson
 - Room TBD
- May 22nd 1pm-3pm
 - Honor Health John C Lincoln
- August 28th 1pm-3pm
 - Flagstaff Medical Center
 - McGee Auditorium

Grand Canyon Conference

- October 16th- All day event
 - Details coming soon!

National Conference

- June 15-17th
- Registration:
<https://www.mcievents.com/apic2026/>



APIC

GRAND CANYON

Quarter in Review

APIC Grand Canyon Chapter – January 2026 New Year Kickoff Meeting Recap

The APIC Grand Canyon Chapter launched 2026 with an energizing New Year Kickoff Meeting in January, celebrating achievements, welcoming new leadership, and outlining exciting plans for the year ahead.

- **Chapter Highlights:**
 - Reflected on 2025 successes, including membership growth, increased social media engagement, strong educational programming, and expanding partnerships.
 - Recognized 2025 leaders and award recipients: **Amy Kolakowski** (Education Committee Award) and **Rebecca Ragar** (Member-at-Large Award).
- **2026 Leadership Team introduced**
 - **Check out our website to see the 2026 Grand Canyon Board Members**
<https://community.apic.org/grandcanyon/home/new-item>
- **What's New for 2026:**
 - Chapter survey to gather member input.
 - Expanded education and mentorship opportunities.
 - Greater collaboration and networking through **Instagram** and **LinkedIn**.
 - Focus on certifications, research, and leadership development.
- **Featured Presentations:**
 - **Dr. Saskia Popescu (Global Health Security Network)** provided access to the Global Health Survey
 - **Dr. Charles Edmiston (Medical College of Wisconsin)** provided expert insight into a comprehensive Surgical Site Infection Prevention bundle
 - APIC National shared updates on the upcoming **IPU Summit, Legislative Briefing in D.C. (Jan 26, 2026)**, and **National Conference registration (opening Jan 28, 2026)**.
- **Treasurer's Report:**
 - Reviewed 2025 financials and presented the proposed 2026 budget, highlighting continued investment in education and member engagement.

The chapter looks forward to another year of growth, collaboration, and advancing infection prevention excellence across Arizona and beyond.

APIC Grand Canyon Chapter – February 2026 Meeting Highlights

The February chapter meeting focused on **measles awareness, outbreak response, and infection prevention updates**.

- **Chapter Updates:** Leadership thanked members and partners, introduced new members, and shared progress on the 2026 Strategic Plan emphasizing **People, Purpose, and Practice**.
- **What's New:** Launch of a redesigned website, new educational resources, and upcoming SSI (Surgical Site Infection) office hours in March 2026.
- **Education Update:** Top training priorities identified include sterilization, SSI prevention, environmental cleaning, NHSN data analytics, and regulatory readiness.
- **Featured Presentations:**
 - **Dr. Neil Ampel (AZDHS)** provided a comprehensive overview of measles—its history, transmission, vaccination, and clinical management.
 - **Gwen Borlaug (ADHS)** discussed infection control strategies in healthcare settings, emphasizing rapid identification, isolation, and reporting of suspected cases.
 - **Karen Zabel (MCPHD)** shared insights from the ongoing Maricopa County measles outbreak, highlighting local transmission, early vaccination recommendations for infants, and the importance of provider reporting.
- **Resources:** Members were directed to ADHS and APIC measles toolkits, playbooks, and rapid rundown videos for continued education and preparedness

