

Panel Presentation

When Crisis Calls: Infection Prevention's Role in Readiness and Response

A Panel Discussion

Learning Objectives

1. Analyze the infection prevention implications of recent natural disasters, pandemics, and emerging infectious disease events affecting California infection prevention programs.
2. Integrate lessons learned from recent disasters and emerging infectious diseases to strengthen infection prevention preparedness, response, and recovery strategies across healthcare settings.
3. Identify actionable priorities and resource needs to enhance resilience, continuity of operations, and staff safety during complex or concurrent emergency events.

Karyn Wong, MPH, CIC, HACP-IC
Infection Preventionist III
Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Karyn Wong, MPH, CIC, is an Infection Preventionist at Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA). Karyn obtained her Bachelor of Science in General Biology from the University of California, San Diego and her Master of Public Health in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from the University of Southern California. She has experience in community and academic hospitals, overseeing geriatric, psychiatric, pediatric and ambulatory programs.

In her current role, she supports CHLA's Heart Institute, Emergency Department, Neurological Institute, Interventional Radiology, Imaging Services, and Med-Surg unit with capacity to care for patients with special pathogens. She also is the Lead Ambulatory Infection Preventionist. She is passionate about preparedness and response to highly communicable diseases and special pathogens. In her spare time, she enjoys cycling, hiking, and baking.

Zachary Rubin, MD
Healthcare Outreach Unit
Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC)
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Dr. Zachary Rubin joined the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health in June 2019, where he is the Chief of the Healthcare Outreach Unit, which provides infection control and prevention guidance to healthcare facilities in Los Angeles County. Dr. Rubin received his MD from the University of Arizona in 2000 and completed his internship and residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City in 2003. Dr. Rubin attended fellowship in Infectious Disease at Emory University from 2003 until the completion in 2006. During his fellowship at Emory, he also was a guest researcher at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion from 2004 to 2006 where he studied the epidemiology of healthcare associated infections. He also took graduate course work at the Emory School of Public Health in clinical research design and epidemiology. From 2006 until 2012, Dr. Rubin was a full-time clinical faculty member at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA where he oversaw hospital infection prevention at the Santa Monica UCLA Medical Center. From 2012 until June 2019, Dr. Rubin was the medical director of UCLA Clinical Epidemiology and Infection Prevention.

Jorge Luis Salinas, MD
Hospital Epidemiologist and
Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford University

Jorge Salinas is a Hospital Epidemiologist and Assistant Professor of Medicine at Stanford University. He previously served as Hospital Epidemiologist at the University of Iowa, and as an Epidemic Intelligence Service Officer at the Division for Tuberculosis Elimination at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is interested in the use of informatics for Infection Prevention as well as creative solutions to Infection Control challenges in resource limited settings.

Structure & How To

- Brief background,
- moderated discussion,
- then audience Q&A.

Audience questions throughout the panel discussion via Kahoot!

New to Kahoot!?

Follow the prompts on the screen to join Kahoot! and participate. Type in the URL in your phone or computer browser. Type in the code shown on the screen. Enter your name. Respond to questions when prompted on your browser. Quick practice round →

Kahoot! Audience Question

What animal are you most afraid of?



Readiness and Response

Natural Disasters

Wildfires, earthquakes, floods, tsunamis,
hurricanes

EIDs, Epidemics

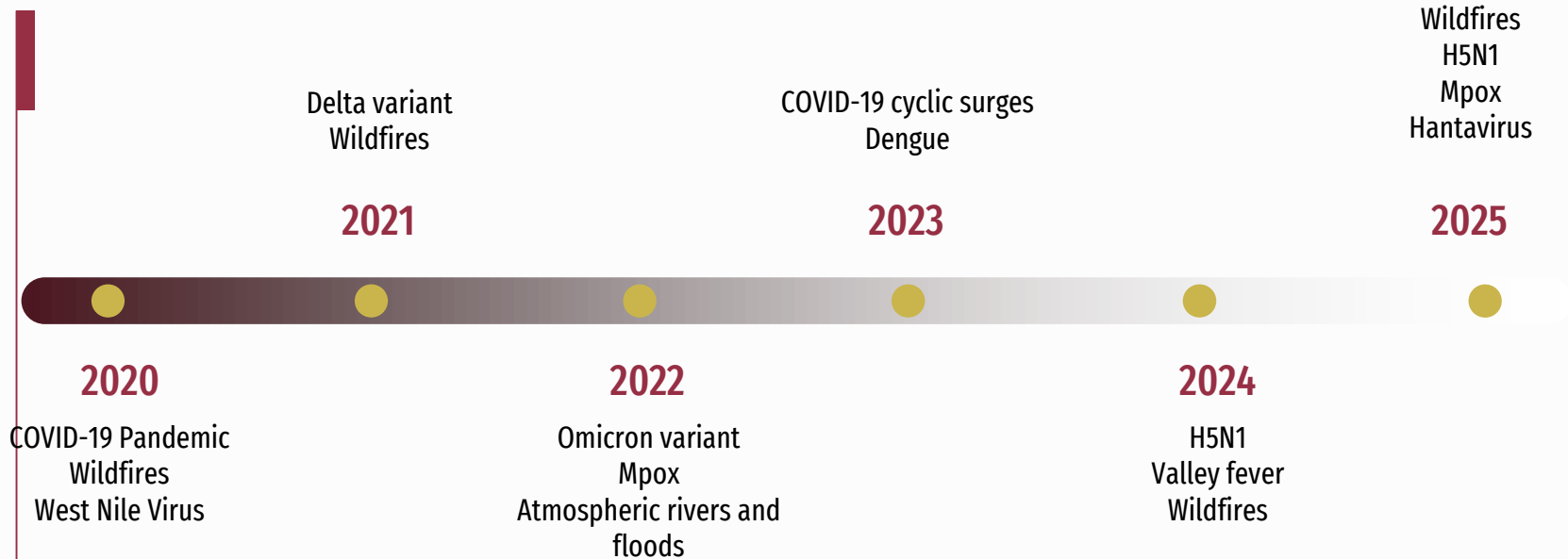
Viral hemorrhagic fevers, vaccine-
preventable diseases, high consequence
pathogens



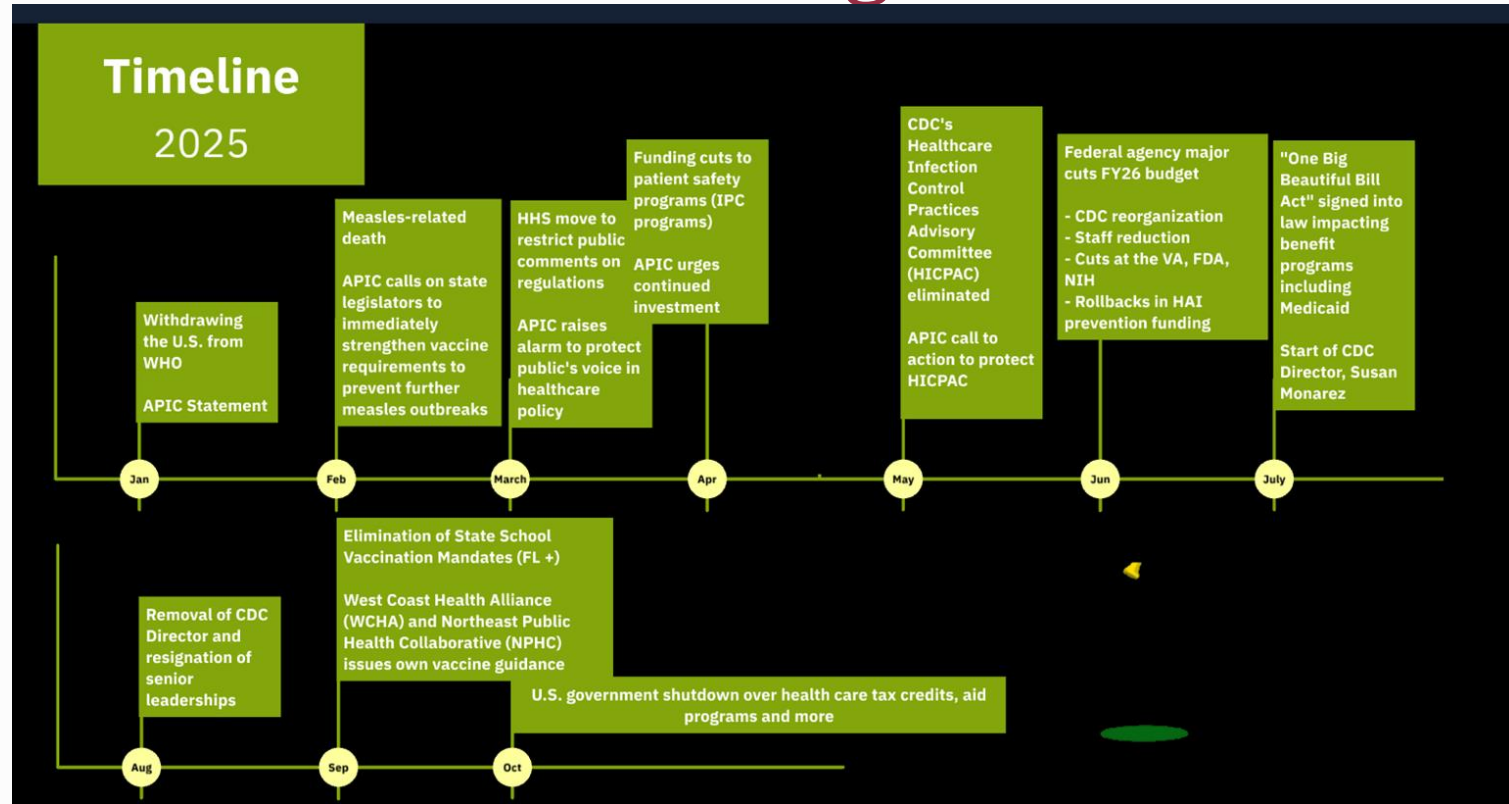
Kahoot! Audience Question

What crises have you experienced
in your infection prevention (or
adjacent) career?

Threats Through the Years



Added Challenges in 2025



Originally presented at San Diego and Imperial County APIC Chapter conference Keynote Panel. Slide shared with permission from Keynote Panelist Jessica Alicdan.

Opening Question

To start us off, can each of you describe one emergency or crisis situation that had a lasting impact on how you approach infection prevention readiness and response?



Moderated Discussion

Response & Continuity

Kahoot! Audience Question

What challenges have you faced while responding to a natural disaster emergency, outbreak or high consequence pathogen?

Panel Question 1

In an crisis, how can healthcare facilities maintain essential infection prevention practices when resources (staff, PPE, water, electricity) are scarce?

Panel Question 2

What are lessons learned from your experiences that helped you keep going in the marathon of responding to a crisis?

Panel Question 3

How can infection preventionists best collaborate with public health agencies, emergency management, and frontline staff during a crisis?

Panel Question 4

How do you mitigate misinformation that occurs during these emergencies with staff and patients?

Panel Question 5

Looking back on your experiences, what top lessons would you share with infection preventionists about building effective partnerships and navigating collaboration during a crisis?

Moderated Discussion

Recovery & Preparedness

Panel Question 6

After the immediate crisis has passed, what infection prevention priorities should organizations focus on during recovery to strengthen resilience for the future?

Panel Question 7

From your perspective, what are the most critical elements of emergency preparedness plans specific to infection prevention?

Kahoot! Audience Question

Are any of our attendees working
in long-term care?

Are any of you working on a small
or sole infection prevention team?

Panel Question 8

What preparedness recommendations do you have for small IPC programs or LTCFs?

Panel Question 9

How should infection preventionists incorporate natural disaster risks (power outages, fires, flooding, supply chain disruption) into their facility or community preparedness plans or annual risk assessments?

Panel Question 10

What emerging threats (climate change-driven disasters, antimicrobial resistance, novel pathogens) should infection preventionists be preparing for, and how can they influence broader preparedness planning?

Audience Q&A

In-person: raise your hand and use the microphone to ask your question.

Virtual or in-person: submit your question through Kahoot!



Closing Reflections

Panelists, please share a final takeaway for our attendees.

Practical, inspiring or forward-looking

Thank You!

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