



Kayla Ericksen

Kayla Ericksen, RN, an infection preventionist in Fond du Lac, Wis. was nominated by her colleagues in her local chapter of APIC. Ericksen oversees infection prevention in an acute-care hospital, St Agnes in Fond du Lac, and a critical access hospital, Waupun Memorial Hospital in Waupun, Wis. Diane Cappozzo RN, a health officer of Fond du Lac County, says, "I have had the pleasure of working with Kayla, a dedicated professional who is able to look beyond her institution and understands that a coordinated effort is needed to decrease the impact of infectious diseases and improve the health of the community. Over the years, the Fond du Lac Health Department and our healthcare partners, with Kayla providing leadership for Agnesian HealthCare, have worked collaboratively to address such infection control issues as an eight-month, communitywide pertussis outbreak, influenza vaccine shortage, and diagnosis of a human rabies case with coordinated response for assessing post exposure and who should received post-exposure vaccine. Kayla is an active member of Fond du Lac County's Administrative Review Committee, which enhances the community's healthcare response to man-made and natural disasters, as well as influenza pandemic through preplanning and exercising of these plans. She was an integral part of in the development of a pandemic influenza plan template specifically for the businesses in our area. Kayla continues to champion incident command within her institution and takes a proactive position on such issues as respiratory etiquette and MRSA. In 2004, her facility started active surveillance cultures in the ICU. When Fond du Lac County was in the early throes of our pertussis outbreak asking patients to mask if they had respiratory symptoms was unheard of. Through Kayla's leadership, healthcare systems and providers within our community were educated and adopted respiratory etiquette policies (which included patient masking) that continue today."

<http://www.infectioncontroltoday.com/articles/2009-whos-who-infection-prevention,p4.html>