



## CIC® Certification: The Defining Difference

The COVID-19 pandemic made it more clear than ever before that infection prevention and control (IPC) is critical to student safety. From controlling COVID, to managing the threat of a new disease outbreak, an infection preventionist who holds the Certified in Infection Control® (CIC®) certification can help your health center apply best practices.

The CIC® is the only accredited certification in infection prevention and control. It is the gold standard for education and training in the field. Learn more at [cbic.org/collegehealth](https://cbic.org/collegehealth).



Certification Board of Infection Control  
and Epidemiology (CBIC)  
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Arlington, VA 22202

“Every college health center  
should have a CIC® certified  
infection preventionist.”

**Michael Deichen MD, MPH**  
Associate Vice President, Student Health Services  
University of Central Florida

**Learn why inside.**

[cbic.org/collegehealth](https://cbic.org/collegehealth)



## Be Prepared for the Next Outbreak

College health professionals share why  
CIC®-certified infection preventionists are key to:

- preventing outbreaks,
- averting threats, and
- preparing for the unexpected.

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## Michael Deichen MD, MPH

Associate Vice President,  
Student Health Services

Professor of Family Medicine,  
College of Medicine

Vice Chair Institutional  
Review Board

University of Central Florida



**“Every college health center should have a CIC® certified infection preventionist.”**

In my 20 years of experience here at UCF, there have been many emerging infections and outbreaks. The administration looks to us for advice and guidance on how to manage threats.

With Jackie on staff, I have reassurance that the best practices in infection prevention and control (IPC) are being followed and that she has the core knowledge necessary to protect patients and provide the best guidance.

Her CIC certification is analogous to a physician's board certification—it gives confidence and affirmation of her skills which in turn helps build confidence in our center's service. I've had parents call to say that they appreciate our cleaning standards. They've even told us that our health center has higher standards than other settings students experience (such as the pediatrician's office and ER). This helps our reputation immeasurably – it even helps recruiting—and ensures we have the institutional support we need.

When it comes to our AAAHC accreditation, I have confidence that we're doing it right. Jackie's training makes it easy to show compliance with standard 7.I.C.2 and the rest of Chapter 7.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, everyone became aware of the principles of hand hygiene, masking, and other core principles of IPC. University presidents and leaders are on board to continue practicing them. Now is the perfect time to add a CIC to your staff and take your IPC program to a higher level.

## Jackie Hop, DNP, MBA, RN, CP, CIC

Nurse Manager and  
Infection Prevention

University of Central Florida



**“One of the great things about being CIC certified is the networking and contacts I have access to.”**

In my network of CICs, there is always someone out there who has a similar question, and I can always find a robust discussion about challenges I'm facing. For example, in the early stages of the pandemic, we discussed supply chain issues, how to find PPE, how to properly fit N95 masks, and best practices for cleaning.

I have a better and deeper understanding of infection prevention and control (IPC) principles now that I am CIC certified. And I have earned a different level of respect. I led our university's COVID hotline and contact tracing programs, in coordination with the local public health department. It made a huge difference to have this program in-house at UCF. Because of my certification, I was able to command a level of authority and trust in my expertise that allowed me to work effectively with public health and the university administration.

IPC is something you need to do right, or it's a problem that could threaten your AAAHC accreditation. The best practices I have learned through my certification are emphasized by all surveyors. They also look at my job description and ask me about the continuing education I take to maintain my certification.

In addition to helping with reaccreditation, my training has helped me set infection prevention benchmarks that colleagues from across the state are now implementing. Our health center is leading the way for the rest of the state university system.

## Brigette T. Lao, MA, RN, NEA-BC, CIC

Clinical Nurse Manager

Infection Control Coordinator

UC Irvine Student  
Health Center



**“I have learned so much by becoming certified, and it allows me to set higher standards.”**

Infection prevention and control (IPC) plays a major role in college health, beyond the health center. For example, we're a resource for dorms, halls, and the child care center in the event of an outbreak. We provide general cleaning advice and help with hand hygiene policies in COVID testing centers. We've also worked closely with the dental clinic, and many other departments.

Because of the growing demand, you need an IPC person at a high enough level to work across departments. If infection control responsibility lies with the immunization or primary care nurse, that's often not enough – to be effective, infection control has to be able to see everything and speak with authority, with a high degree of knowledge and expertise. And to do the job well, you really need to be CIC certified.

When surveyors from AAAHC see my credentials and interview me, they know I am trained and that my health center is in compliance with their standards.

In addition, my certification provides a level of authority when working with colleagues in other departments. I struggled with other members of the team over cleaning standards, but when they realized that I was CIC certified and my training includes cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization, they listened to me.

I didn't realize the full value of certification until I got deeper into my practice. I can do more because I know more. My standards have gone up, and I see the difference. I uphold the standards for the areas in which I am certified, and I continue to learn and know more every day.