

*Trust the science behind the seal.*



# ST★R Report

## Wisconsin State Fair Park Receives GBAC STAR Reaccreditation

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## Wisconsin State Fair Park GBAC STAR Accreditation

In December 2021, the Wisconsin State Fair Park achieved its GBAC STAR™ reaccreditation, the gold standard on outbreak prevention, response and recovery for prepared facilities. This accomplishment built on its success as being one of the first fairgrounds in the United States to be accredited.

Under the guidance of GBAC, a division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, Wisconsin State Fair Park has implemented the most stringent protocols for cleaning,

disinfections and infectious disease prevention in its facilities.

“Earning the GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation encompasses upholding the highest standard of cleanliness at Wisconsin State Fair Park,” Shari Black, Interim CEO, Wisconsin State Fair Park, said. “We are pleased to achieve re-accreditation through this prestigious program, keeping safety at the forefront to protect staff, exhibitors, Fairgoers and all who visit the Fair Park.”

The Wisconsin State Fair Park boasts nearly 200 acres and provides a year-round entertainment venue by hosting events, activities and meetings throughout the four seasons. Home to the Exposition Center, Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center, Milwaukee Mile Speedway, Wisconsin





## What GBAC STAR Facility Accreditation Means

- Maintains strict cleaning protocols for infectious disease
- Uses best practices to limit the impact of future outbreaks
- Protects occupants now and in the future
- Prepares for any recurring challenges in your workplace or facility.

### ABOUT THE CLEANING STAFF

- Highly informed for infectious disease response
- Empowered to do their jobs safely and effectively
- Trained to follow the right practices to keep themselves safe from disease
- Bringing value to their communities and contributing to public health.

### FOR CUSTOMERS AND ATTENDEES

- The assurance that the facility has been disinfected to the highest standards
- Renewed trust in building cleanliness and safety
- Increased confidence to enter and feel comfortable inside the building
- Peace of mind that proper cleaning is an ongoing facility management priority. ★

Products Pavilion and Original Cream Puff Pavilion, hundreds of events are held at State Fair Park each year, which includes hosting the annual Wisconsin State Fair for more than 170 years.

The GBAC STAR accreditation encompasses all buildings and outdoor facilities at State Fair Park, including the Wisconsin State Fair. Receiving third-party validation is the culmination of many years of preparedness and commitment to operating safely.

"GBAC STAR accreditation empowers facility owners and managers to assure workers, customers, and key stakeholders that they have proven systems in place to maintain clean and healthy environments that are safe for business," Patricia Olinger, Executive Director, Global Biorisk Advisory

Council, said. "By taking this important step to pursue GBAC STAR, Wisconsin State Fair Park has received third-party validation that it follows strict protocols for biorisk situations, thereby demonstrating its preparedness and commitment to operating safely."

"In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, the GBAC STAR accreditation program is exactly what facilities need to confidently reopen and keep staff, customers, and communities safe," John Barrett, Executive Director, ISSA, said. "The way the world views cleaning has changed overnight. To effectively recover from this crisis and prepare for the next, it's essential that businesses take these necessary steps — and we're thrilled to have a stable of top organizations that have already committed to the program." ★







## Cleaning Up with a New Collaboration

A collaboration between the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™, a Division of ISSA, the worldwide cleaning industry association, and IAEE, the leading trade association for the global exhibitions and events industry, is bringing positive results to cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease-prevention efforts that will benefit thousands of key stakeholders.

Expo! Expo! IAEE's Annual Meeting and Exhibition became the first trade show event to be awarded the GBAC STAR™ Event designation, outside of our own ISSA Show North America, held in November. Under the guidance of the GBAC STAR Event criteria, Expo! Expo! coordinated stringent yet efficient planning and event protocols for cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention. This process was simplified by hosting the event at a GBAC STAR Accredited Facility — The Pennsylvania Convention Center — and by utilizing a GBAC STAR Accredited Service Provider — United Service

Companies. This allowed the three parties to focus on the health and safety of the organizers and attendees to provide a confident experience at the show by using their established GBAC STAR Accredited processes.

Expo! Expo! IAEE's Annual Meeting and Exhibition, which was held in December 2021 in Philadelphia, is referred to as the "show for shows." Thousands of exhibition and events industry professionals attend this gathering to learn about the latest industry trends and technology, and network with colleagues.

And the collaboration between IAEE and GBAC continues to blossom. At this time, the finishing touches are being made to a training module that helps event planners make informed decisions based on infection prevention and public health.

"We recently launched a 30-minute Infectious Disease Awareness course that is targeted to have a broader reach than our longer certification

courses. We want to get the most critical information about infection prevention to the largest audience we can, particularly the frontline cleaning professionals and their supervisors," Steve Arehart, Director of Technical Operations, GBAC, said. "With the help of IAEE, we're developing an event planner's training module to add to this awareness course. It contains guidance for planners to consider when making key event planning decisions such as:

- What the expectations should be from your hosting facility or your hired cleaning contractor
- Understanding the role of a safety committee when planning an event
- How local and federal compliance factors into your decisions.

IAEE provides the expertise and experience in what it takes to plan an event, and we lean on our community of infectious disease and public health experts to adapt those plans to not only have a smooth event but also have a safe and healthy event."

The Event Planner Training Module will be publicized upon its completion in all of our GBAC media.

If you are an event planner and would like your next event to be considered for the GBAC STAR Event Designation, please email [GBACSTAREvent@issa.com](mailto:GBACSTAREvent@issa.com)

"With the new GBAC STAR Event designation and the event planner training module, our goal continues to be that public health, personal hygiene and infection prevention should always be part of the barometer when measuring the success of a hosting a large-scale event. Although many of us are fatigued with learning to balance our work and our personal lives amidst the greatest public health crisis of our lifetime, we must continue to learn and adapt when necessary," Arehart said. "We're all starved for social interaction and these events provide that outlet to build personal and professional relationships, and we can do that safely when armed with the right information and personal accountability." ★





## Aligning the STARS of GBAC and GHA WellHotel® Program

Thailand-based Aonang Princeville Villa Resort & Spa has now earned both GBAC STAR™ Facility Accreditation from the GBAC and Global Healthcare Accreditation (GHA). This means the property is the first in the world to achieve GBAC STAR™ / GHA WellHotel for Medical Travel and Well-being, which ensure hotels comply with cleaning, disinfection, and infection prevention standards, as well as customer experience and safety protocols specific to the needs and expectation of medical travel and wellness guests.

"Travelers are increasingly considering the ways in which hotels are keeping guests safe ahead of booking their stays," Patricia Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC, said. "Third-party verification of a property's health and safety protocols gives guests confidence that these businesses are prepared to manage biorisks."

According to the Wellness Tourism Association's 2021 Wellness Travel Consumer Survey, which polled 2,500 consumers from 52 countries and territories, the top offering respondents rated as extremely important was a "certified and safe hotel environment." The GBAC STAR / GHA WellHotel Program aligns GHA's WellHotel program with GBAC STAR, the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response, and recovery accreditation. The virtual accreditation is performance-based and requires documentation for 38 elements, including cleaning and disinfection chemicals; goals, objectives,

and targets related to guest satisfaction for medical travel and wellness guests; audits and inspections; and emergency planning and response.

"We have seen travelers' expectations evolve during the pandemic," Karen Timmons, CEO, GHA, said. "As we move past the pandemic, there is growing evidence that travelers will increasingly look for validation of safety, cleanliness and guest experience before booking a trip. The GBAC STAR / GHA WellHotel Accreditation helps build guest trust in your brand by ensuring hotels comply with recognized industry-wide hotel cleaning and sanitation standards, as well as customer experience and safety protocols specific to the needs and expectations of medical travel and wellness guests. I would like to congratulate Aonang Princeville Villa Resort and Spa on achieving GBAC STAR Facility accreditation and becoming the first hotel in the world to achieve the joint GBAC STAR / GHA WellHotel Accreditation for Medical Travel and Well-being."

GHA is an innovative accreditation body with specialized foci in medical and wellness travel, safety and well-being. Founded in September of 2016, GHA's initial purpose as an independent accrediting body centered on improving the patient experience for medical travelers and supporting healthcare providers in validating quality, increasing visibility and implementing a sustainable business model for medical travel. Since then, GHA has developed a variety of programs

covering the entire spectrum of the care continuum and offers certification and accreditation for stakeholders in all aspects of health and well-being.

Aonang Princeville Villa Resort & Spa is a four-star boutique resort on the beachfront of Aonang, Thailand, along the Andaman Sea. The resort provides several wellness activities and services designed to help guests achieve their mental and physical health goals. In addition to wellness, Aonang Princeville Villa focuses on sustainability and attracts environmentally conscious tourists from around the world to take part in environmental restoration projects.

"Our resort is incredibly proud to offer an environment that helps guests maintain or improve their wellbeing and health," Khun Kusuma Kinglek, CEO, Aonang Princeville Villa Resort & Spa, said. "Because wellness is at the core of our business, it was only natural for us to pursue and achieve the requirements of the GBAC STAR / GHA WellHotel for Medical Travel and Well-being programs."

To apply for joint GBAC STAR / GHA WellHotel Accreditation, visit [wellhotel.org](http://wellhotel.org).

For more information about GHA, visit [www.ghaccreditation.com](http://www.ghaccreditation.com). ★

## Where Do We Stand

### GBAC STAR Facility Reaccreditation

GBAC STAR Family Reaccreditation is an annual process that builds on an initial accreditation to ensure those facilities continue to evolve, improve and advance with the performance-based GBAC STAR program elements. More than 4,000 facilities make up the GBAC STAR Family and many are in the process of reaccreditation, while others are initially becoming accredited.

### GBAC STAR Family

*As of February 15, 2022*

**88.4%** of facilities committed to reaccreditation

**877** facilities reaccredited

To learn more about this process, contact GBAC Sales at <https://gbac.issa.com/contact>.





## Let's Celebrate Together During National Cleaning Week

National Cleaning Week — March 27 - April 2, 2022 — is just around the corner, and the Global Biorisk Advisory Council (GBAC), a Division of ISSA, is saying thank you to the cleaning industry by offering 20% off on the GBAC Infectious Disease Awareness Course: Cleaning and Disinfection Principles during National Cleaning Week.

The GBAC Infectious Disease Awareness Course: Cleaning and Disinfection Principles teaches cleaning professionals to prepare for, respond to and recover from biohazards in the workplace. Participants will learn infection and contamination control measures for infectious disease outbreak situations such as the novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). Individuals who successfully complete the course within 30 days will receive a Certificate of Completion from GBAC and can use the term "GBAC-Trained Technician" to distinguish themselves in their marketing and communication materials.

To receive the discount, register at the course page and use the coupon code NCW20 at checkout to claim

your 20% off. For all of the details, visit <https://learning.issa.com/courses/36362>.

National Cleaning Week is designed to emphasize the value of clean and the important, positive impact cleaning has on public health, the environment, and our economy. ISSA, the leading trade association for the cleaning industry worldwide, is proud to be a key driver of this recognition because it represents a unique opportunity to raise public awareness for the cleaning industry, show appreciation for frontline cleaning professionals, and for the GBAC STAR Family to promote their businesses and the cleaning industry.

"Register now for the ISSA Clean Advocacy Summit — IOPFDA Workplace Solutions Summit, March 30-31, 2022, as part of National Cleaning Week. Now more than ever, we need your participation and voice to advocate, influence and make an impact in Washington, D.C.," Jill Nuppenau, Director of Communications, ISSA, said. "We're hosting this important event live and in-person at the GBAC



### Win an All-Access Pass to ISSA Show NA

Enter to win an all-access pass to the ISSA Show North America in Chicago, October 10-13, 2022. Your chance to enter this drawing is available during National Cleaning Week, March 27-April 2, 2022. To enter, visit <https://about.issa.com/national-cleaning-week-enter-to-win>.

STARTM-accredited Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill." (Please note that the health of our registrants is our top priority. Accordingly, the summit's agenda and/or format may change depending on the COVID-19 situation and/or access to the U.S. Capitol in early 2022. ISSA will keep summit registrants apprised of any significant changes to the agenda and/or format of the event.)

For more information about National Cleaning Week and to download the partnership toolkit to promote the event, visit [issa.com/hcw](https://issa.com/hcw) ★



# We Want to Feature Your Organization's GBAC STAR Accreditation Story

GBAC is committed to helping our accredited facilities and service providers achieve success. Tell us your story and we will share it in an upcoming issue of the GBAC STAR Report.

GBAC STAR Report was created to communicate educational opportunities and highlight facilities and service providers as they attain higher protocols to keep spaces clean and safe for occupancy. This newsletter also offers a way to share learnings about an organization's process of accreditation.

GBAC STAR is the cleaning industry's only outbreak prevention, response and recovery accreditation, and an important indicator of the thoroughness these organizations offer in cleaning, disinfection and prevention.

The process of accreditation can seem to be overwhelming but thousands of companies have eagerly joined the GBAC STAR Family and hundreds have been reaccredited.

The GBAC STAR Report is looking for facilities or service providers that would

be willing to share the story of their drive to accreditation or reaccreditation. Did you discover learnings that you would be willing to share with other readers of the GBAC STAR Report to assist them on their journey? Is your organization the first of your industry or group to be accredited and willing to share its discoveries? How has achieving the GBAC STAR impacted the success of your organization during the pandemic?

The GBAC STAR Report has featured the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami; Hyatt, an international hotel chain; TRAXX, a multi-million mile luxury bus line; and Sonoma Country Day School. We are looking for interesting stories to tell and offer the opportunity to you to be featured.

Interested? Email [gbacstar@issa.com](mailto:gbacstar@issa.com) to share your organization's story with more than 19,000 of our readers worldwide. ★

## Reviewing Recent Learnings

Dr. Gavin Macgregor-Skinner, Senior Director, GBAC, discusses the unique terminology inserted into our vocabulary due to the pandemic a recent GBAC Industry Alert. Asymptomatic, variant, N95, social distancing and others are now fairly common. However, some terminology can be confusing. Dr. Macgregor-Skinner, shares the difference between a virus and a bacteria and what the cleaning industry needs to know.

In another BioTalk edition, Dr. Macgregor-Skinner reviews three recent CDC studies that focus on infectious diseases. He has been following these studies that impact what we know about infectious diseases, their transmission and how we can best protect ourselves. In this segment, he also concentrates on breaking news regarding the Javits Center, a GBAC STAR accredited facility.

All episodes of BioTalk are available at <https://gbac.issa.com/media/gbactv>. ★

# GBAC<sup>®</sup> tv

## Responding to Risks

In the latest episode of BioTalk, a GBACtv production, learn how the cleaning industry can respond to an increased risk of indoor air contamination and how building sciences is identifying critical issues and addressing them. Jeff Cross, media director, ISSA, along with co-host Patty Olinger, Executive Director, GBAC, discuss issues with John Cordier, CEO and co-founder, Epistemix, and Mark Hernandez, PhD, PE, College of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Colorado. Hernandez is also a GBAC Advisory Board member and has presented team findings from a key Air Quality Considerations White Paper.

As masks come off and the shift goes from pandemic to endemic,



there remain cleaning and contamination issues, improving indoor air quality and monitoring all of this through testing. Both Cordier and Hernandez share thought-provoking solutions.

BioTalk is a production of GBACtv, a webcast series produced by ISSA Media and the Global Biorisk Advisory Council™ (GBAC), a Division of ISSA. All episodes of BioTalk are available at <https://gbac.issa.com/media/gbactv>. ★





## GBAC Registered Technology Showcase

The first GBAC™ Registered Technology and Registered Programs webinar will be held in the coming weeks. This webinar features one of GBAC's first Registered Technologies, LuminUltra®.

LuminUltra's Gene Count Technology is a turn-key solution for rapid onsite detection of viral and microbial threats.

This technology consists of:

- Sample collection and preservation kits

- RNA extraction and purification kits tailored for lab and field environments
- RT-qPCR assays for specific pathogens, including SARS-CoV-2
- qPCR equipment (thermocyclers) purpose tailored for lab and field environments
- Software packages for results interpretation, reporting and distribution.

Many more webinars featuring our GBAC STAR Registered Technologies and Programs are being planned. For the latest information and to register, email <https://gbacademy.issa.com/contact-us>. ★

## Looking Ahead

### Sign Up Now for GBAC STAR Bootcamp

The next session of the GBAC STAR Virtual Bootcamp is set to be held from 2-4 p.m. EST, March 21-22. Only 100 participants are allowed each month for the Virtual Bootcamp and signing up early is highly encouraged. This course is a two-day digital briefing that reviews the accreditation process and takes a deep dive into the 20 elements, with an extensive opportunity for questions and answers. The course readies clients for the task of gathering their documents for accreditation. To learn more about GBAC STAR Virtual Bootcamp and register, visit <https://events.issa.com/events/gbac-star-20-elements-bootcamp/>. ★

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

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Robotic devices can protect employees from injuries in the workplace, but they can also bring their own set of complications. Read the latest OSHA guidelines: <https://bit.ly/osha-updates-robotic-systems>.

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A new episode of BioTalk has just been released. Learn how the cleaning industry can respond to an increased risk of indoor air contamination and how building sciences is identifying critical issues and addressing them. Patty Olinger, Executive Director of GBAC; John Cordier, CEO and co-founder, Epistemic; and Mark Hernandez, University of Colorado College of Engineering; share thought-provoking solutions. All episodes of BioTalk are available at <https://gbac.issa.com/media/gbactv>.



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