



HEALTH ADVISORY # 76

Mandatory Reporting of Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)

TO: West Virginia Laboratories, Healthcare Providers, Long-Term Care Facilities, Acute Care Facilities and Other Healthcare Facilities

FROM: Marian L. Swinker, MD, MPH, Commissioner for Public Health and State Health Officer, WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

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LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO LABORATORIES, MICROBIOLOGY SUPERVISORS, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES' MEDICAL DIRECTORS, COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION CONTROL PREVENTIONISTS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

Effective August 12, 2013, laboratories in West Virginia are required to report carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) to WV Bureau for Public Health (BPH) within one week of identification. The emergence and dissemination of CRE in the United States and in West Virginia represent a serious threat to public health. These organisms are associated with high mortality rates and have the potential to spread widely in healthcare facilities.

Laboratories should:

- Report CRE cases to the BPH within one week of identification by faxing a copy of the laboratory result to (304) 558-8736.
- Follow the current guidelines from the Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) and CDC for testing for carbapenem resistance.
- Report CRE immediately to healthcare facilities. Clearly highlight carbapenem resistance in the report so that resistance is readily apparent to health care providers.
- Report outbreaks immediately to your local health department.

Healthcare providers and healthcare facilities, particularly long-term care facilities should:

- Make sure your laboratories are testing for CRE according to CDC / CLSI guidelines.
- Make sure that your laboratories are immediately reporting carbapenem resistance to you.
- Follow CDC guidance for controlling CRE in healthcare facilities, which can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/cre/CRE-guidance-508.pdf>
- Immediately report CRE outbreaks to your local health department.

For more information on CRE and CRE outbreaks, please visit the BPH infectious disease website at <http://www.dhhr.wv.gov/oeps/disease/AtoZ/Pages/CRE.aspx>. Please report outbreaks or clusters of any illness immediately to your local health department. For further information, contact your local health department or visit the DIDE website at (www.dide.wv.gov) or contact DIDE at 304-558-5358 or 800-423-1271 ext. 1 (in WV).

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to local health departments and professional associations. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audience.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.