

1/15/2019

\* *NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

## Local cases of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae

### Current situation in the State of Washington:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is currently investigating a cluster of Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-CRPA) infections associated with healthcare and medical tourism in Mexico. In Washington state, we have identified three cases of VIM *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* surgical-site infections connected to bariatric surgery that are included in the cluster of eleven cases reported by CDC. Of these three Washington cases, one was identified in 2015 and the other two between November 2018 and January 2019. The two recent cases are associated with the facility named below, Grand View Hospital in Tijuana, Mexico.

### ACTIONS REQUESTED:

- **Provide education to patients that medical tourism has been associated with complications**, including infections caused by antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria not commonly seen in the U.S. Patients who are considering seeking medical care overseas should be aware of this risk. <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellowbook/2018/the-pre-travel-consultation/medical-tourism>
- **Increase index of suspicion** for patients who have recently had surgery in Mexico.
- **Report suspected cases of carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) within one business day** to Thurston County Public Health & Social Services (see case definition and contact information below)

### BACKGROUND:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) was notified beginning on September 28, 2018 through the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/solutions-initiative/ar-lab-network.html>) of 10 Verona Integron-mediated Metallo- $\beta$ -lactamase-producing carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-CRPA) infections among adult patients returning to the United States after undergoing invasive procedures (e.g. endoscopy, surgery) in Mexico. Seven patients reported receiving bariatric surgery in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico during September, 2018 to November, 2018. Out of these seven, six reported undergoing surgery at Grand View Hospital in the city of Tijuana.

### Resources:

Facility Guidance for Control of CRE <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/cre/CRE-guidance-508.pdf>



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**Case definition:**

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/ForPublicHealthandHealthcareProviders/NotifiableConditions/CarbapenemresistantEnterobacteriaceae>

Enterobacteriaceae may cause a variety of clinical syndromes including urinary tract, blood stream, surgical site, pulmonary and intra-abdominal infections. Persons who are colonized with CRE and carbapenem-resistant organisms (CRO) may appear healthy and have no symptoms but still require infection control precautions when in healthcare settings to prevent contamination of the environment and spread to vulnerable patients.

**Specimen collection guidance**

- CDC continues to recommend that patients admitted to healthcare facilities in the U.S. following an overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside the U.S. (within the last 6 months) undergo rectal screening for carbapenemase-producing organisms.
- Mechanism testing for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and CRPA and rectal screening for carbapenemases is available free of charge via the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network, (<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/solutions-initiative/ar-lab-network.html>), which can be accessed through state health department healthcare associated infections programs (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/state-based/index.html>).

Contact Thurston County Public Health & Social Services for questions, sampling and shipping details.

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting <b>non-immediately reportable conditions</b> (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
<b>Immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency</b> – during business hours	Call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate Communicable Disease staff
<b>Immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency</b> – after business hours	Call 911 and ask staff to locate the Health Officer.
If no one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is <b>immediately notifiable</b>	Call 1-877-539-4344