PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Center for Public Health Practice, Acute and Communicable Disease
Tina Kotek, Governor

Oregon Health Authority

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Portland, OR 97232
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November 3, 2023

Re: Oregon Public Health Division
Updated Request for Select Antimicrobial Resistant Isolates

Dear Oregon Microbiology Community,

Thank you for your continued partnership in surveillance efforts in Oregon. The Oregon Public Health Division requests your sustained assistance with efforts to increase surveillance of multidrug-resistant organisms in our state. We are doing this as part of a national effort led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to contain the spread of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens.

We are updating isolate-submission requirements to include additional antimicrobial-resistant pathogens required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR 333-018-0015 & 333-018-0018) effective October 26, 2023. All organisms listed below are newly required or updated. Testing will be conducted by the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) or the regional Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) Lab in Shoreline, Washington. You will receive laboratory results for all testing performed. We have provided an attachment with additional information about the ARLN.

All labs are required to submit these organisms of public health significance to OSPHL:

1. Any **pan-resistant or pan-non-susceptible Gram-negative bacilli isolates**— i.e., those found to be Intermediate or Resistant to the entire antibiotic susceptibility panel used in the clinical lab.

2. **Confirmed or suspected *Candida auris*** isolates from any sterile or non-sterile site. Several yeast identification methods, listed below, can misidentify *C. auris* as other rare *Candida* species. Please see the table for when to suspect *Candida auris*. For more details by method, refer to CDC's algorithm at https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/pdf/Testing-algorithm_by-Method_508.pdf.

Identification Method	***Candida auris* can be misidentified as:**
Vitek 2 YST	*C. haemulonii* or *C. duobushaemulonii*
API 20C	*C. sake* or *Rhodotorula glutinis* (with no red color)
API ID 32C	*C. intermedia, C. sake,* or *Saccharomyces kluyveri*
BD Phoenix YST ID	*C. haemulonii* or *C. catenulate*
Microscan	*C. famata, C. guilliermondii, C. lusitaniae*, or *C. parapsilosis*
RapID Yeast Plus	*C. parapsilosis*

For general information about *C. auris* see: https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/fact-sheets/fact-sheet-lab-staff.html.

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3. **Any carbapenem-resistant (MIC ≥8) *Acinetobacter* species** isolates from any sterile or non-sterile site.

4. **Any confirmed carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO)** isolates identified by laboratories performing their own carbapenemase testing (e.g., Carba-R assay, Carba NP, or other identification of a carbapenemase gene).

For Portland Tri-county area labs, please continue sending:

1. *Candida* spp. isolates from blood cultures (currently reporting and sending)
2. Carbapenem-resistant (MIC ≥8) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) isolates

Recruited[1] labs outside of the Portland Tri-county area, please send:

1. Carbapenem-resistant (MIC ≥8) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) isolates
2. *Candida spp.* isolates excluding *Candida albicans*: from sterile sites and urine
3. Unspeciated *Candida* isolates: from sterile sites and urine

What testing will be performed?

Carbapenem-resistant organisms will be tested at OSPHL or the regional ARLN lab for detection of carbapenemase genes. The regional ARLN lab will perform species identification and fungal susceptibility testing for *Candida* spp.

How to send isolates?

Please submit pure, actively growing bacterial cultures. Trypticase Soy Agar slants are preferred. Alternatively, non-selective agar media can also be used. Include antimicrobial susceptibility testing reports from the automated test instrument with the submission.

All required fields on the OSPHL General Microbiology Test Request Form must be completed. Laboratories have access to Test Request Forms as fillable PDF, printable PDF or by order using the OSPHL Stockroom Order Request Form. Each are available at https://bitly.com/phl-forms.

For labs submitting isolates of *Candida* spp., in the "Referral Testing" section of the Test Request Form, please indicate the order under "ARLN Submission" including the name of the *Candida* spp. isolate submitted.

Transporting isolates

Store and transport isolates at ambient temperatures. Avoid extreme heat, and do not freeze specimens.

Please transport isolates to:

Oregon State Public Health Laboratory
7202 NW Evergreen Parkway, Suite 100
Hillsboro, OR 97124

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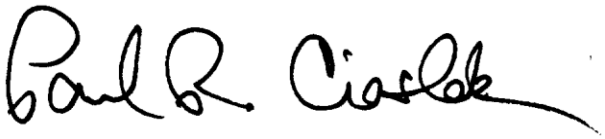
[1] Recruited labs are those outside of the Portland metro area that have been asked and have agreed to send CRPA and isolates of *Candida* species other than *Candida albicans* to OSPHL. If you are interested in participating in this sentinel surveillance, please contact Heather Hertzel, heather.hertzel2@oha.oregon.gov MDRO Epidemiologist.

Questions?

For questions about the request, or if you are interested in participating as a sentinel lab, contact Heather Hertzel, heather.hertzel2@oha.oregon.gov with the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention section.

For technical questions, contact Karim Morey, Lead Microbiologist at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory, karim.e.morey@oha.oregon.gov.

Thank you,



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Information about the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN)

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) established Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) in 2016 as part of an action plan to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The mission of the ARLN is to track the prevalence of antimicrobial resistant organisms, identify outbreaks, and prevent the spread of these organisms.

Oregon's regional ARLN lab is the Washington State Public Health Laboratory (WSPHL) in Shoreline, Washington. Initial laboratory testing will be conducted at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL), with additional testing performed at the WSPHL.

What it does:

Provides additional support for state public health labs

Does additional testing for resistance mechanisms

- Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE) and carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA)
  - Confirms questionable or discordant results
  - Cultures for colonization screening
- Carbapenemase testing on carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)
  - Cultures for colonization screening
- *Candida* spp. surveillance:
  - Confirms identification and perform susceptibility testing (*Candida auris*)
  - Monitors resistance of *Candida* non-albicans
  - Performs colonization screening for *C. auris*

Link to additional information about the ARLN:
https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/ar-lab-networks/domestic.html