



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

ROY COOPER • Governor

KODY H. KINSLEY • Secretary

MARK BENTON • Chief Deputy Secretary for Health

KELLY KIMPLE • Acting Director, Division of Public Health

Memo

To: North Carolina Clinicians and Clinical Laboratories

From: Zack Moore, MD, MPH, State Epidemiologist
Scott M. Shone, PhD, HCLD(ABB), Public Health Laboratory Director

Date: October 30, 2024

Re: Reporting Carbapenemase-Producing Organisms in North Carolina

Effective November 1, 2024, identification of any carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPO) will be reportable in North Carolina within 24 hours after they are identified or reasonably suspected under Administrative Code Rule 10A NCAC 41A .0101.

Background

Infection or colonization with carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE) has been reportable in North Carolina since 2018. Effective November 1, 2024, reporting requirements are expanding to include all CPOs. This change is being made in recognition of the fact that CPOs are an epidemiologically important group of multidrug-resistant pathogens and to align North Carolina's reporting requirements with the [national case definition](#).

Carbapenemases are enzymes that break down carbapenem antibiotics. Several of the genes that produce these carbapenemases can be easily transferred between different kinds of bacteria. Because of their ability to transfer resistance, CPOs are of urgent public health concern.

Identification of carbapenemase-producing organisms:

Providers and healthcare systems should communicate with their institution's clinical laboratory or laboratories providing microbiology testing for their organizations regarding diagnostic testing for CPOs, specifically to understand their capacity to test for carbapenemase production or presence of carbapenemase-producing genes when indicated.

If an institution's laboratory does not have the capacity to perform carbapenemase testing, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) is available to perform this testing without charge.

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LOCATION: 4312 District Drive, Raleigh, NC 27607

MAILING ADDRESS: 1918 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1918

www.ncdhhs.gov • http://publichealth.nc.gov • https://slph.dph.ncdhhs.gov/ • TEL: 919-733-7834 • FAX: 919-733-8695

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Healthcare facilities should implement a system to facilitate timely notification of infection prevention staff when CPOs are identified or reasonably suspected based on antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

Reporting:

Report cases to your local health department within 24 hours after CPOs are identified or reasonably suspected. Report identification of CPOs from a clinical specimen associated with either infection or colonization, including all susceptibility results and all phenotypic or molecular test results.

If you have questions related to investigation or follow-up, please call the NC DPH epidemiologist on call at 919-733-3419 or email nchai@dhhs.nc.gov.

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