

Health Advisory

New Drug-Resistant Organism Reporting Requirements in Philadelphia April 25, 2018

The prevalence of antimicrobial resistant organisms is increasing and continues to pose significant challenges for providers to treat patients effectively and safely. Enhanced surveillance and coordination of control strategies is crucial to identify these microorganisms and limit transmission in healthcare settings. In response to this growing health threat, the Philadelphia Board of Health has required the reporting of infection or colonization with three new organisms/conditions: ***Candida auris***, **Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)**, and **Pandrug-resistant Organisms**. The Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) is issuing this health advisory to define the three new conditions that are reportable in Philadelphia, to review methods of reporting, and to provide infection control guidance for healthcare facilities.

Candida auris

Report all positive cultures of *Candida auris* and *Candida haemulonii* (*Candida auris* is frequently misidentified as *Candida haemulonii*). Report cultures from all body sites (including but not limited to blood, wound, skin, ear, urine, rectum, and respiratory secretions) that were collected for diagnostic purposes as well as surveillance/screening purposes. All positive test results should be reported to PDPH **within 24 hours**. Please **call** PDPH at (215) 685-6748 [after-hours (215) 686-4514] to report a case of *Candida auris*. A *Candida auris* case report form (attached) should also be filled out and faxed to PDPH at (215) 238-6947 after reporting the case via phone. Fungal isolates should be retained for one month. PDPH will follow up to coordinate further testing as needed.

Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE)

Report all cases of CRE. Report cases that were identified from diagnostic testing as well as surveillance/screening tests. A case of CRE is defined as a culture yielding a bacterium in the family *Enterobacteriaceae* (e.g. *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter*, *Escherichia coli*, *Proteus*, *Serratia*, etc.):

1. that tests resistant to at least one carbapenem antibiotic (minimum inhibitory concentrations of ≥ 4 mcg/ml for meropenem, imipenem, and doripenem OR ≥ 2 mcg/ml for ertapenem);
or
2. that is documented to produce a carbapenemase by means of a laboratory test. Tests shall include, but not be limited to, MicroScan, E-test, disk diffusion test, Modified Hodge Test (MHT), Metallo- β -lactamase test, Carba NP, Carbapenem Inactivation Method (CIM), Modified CIM (mCIM), polymerase-chain reaction (PCR), and Gene Xpert CarbaR.

SUMMARY POINTS

- *Candida auris*, Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE), and Pandrug-resistant Organisms are now reportable to the Philadelphia Department of Public Health
- Report colonization or infection with *C. auris* and Pandrug-resistant Organisms within 24 hours to PDPH
- Report forms are attached and can be located on the Health Information Portal at:
<https://hip.phila.gov/ReportDisease/HowToReport>
- Healthcare facilities should save isolates of these organisms and implement infection control actions when cases are identified

All positive test results should be reported to PDPH **within 5 days**, with the exceptions of CRE clusters/outbreaks, which should be reported, via phone, within 24 hours. A CRE case report form (attached) should be filled out and faxed to PDPH at (215) 238-6947. Cases may be reported to PDPH via phone at (215) 685-6748. Isolates should be retained for one month. PDPH will follow up to coordinate further testing as needed.

Pandrug-resistant Organism (PDRO)

Report all PDROs. Report cases that were identified from diagnostic testing as well as surveillance/screening tests. A PDRO is defined as a culture yielding a bacterium or fungus that exhibits non-susceptibility to all antibacterial or all anti-fungal agents tested (i.e. all drugs tested for susceptibility are either intermediate or resistant). All positive test results should be reported to PDPH **within 24 hours**. Please **call** PDPH at (215) 685-6748 [after-hours (215) 686-4514] to report a pandrug-resistant organism. A PDRO case report form (attached) should also be filled out and faxed to PDPH at (215) 238-6947 after reporting the case via phone. Isolates should be retained for one month. PDPH will follow up to coordinate further testing as needed.

Essential Guidance and Resources to Contain Drug-Resistant Organisms and Stop Transmission

Early and aggressive action can prevent the spread of these organisms in healthcare facilities.

Healthcare facilities that have identified a single patient or multiple patients with *Candida auris*, CRE, and/or a PDRO, whether infected or colonized, should:

- Place patients identified with these drug-resistant organisms on isolation precautions.
- Notify PDPH of the case(s) and consult on the implementation of appropriate isolation precautions for your specific care setting.
- Ensure healthcare workers are adhering to proper hand hygiene and personal protective equipment protocols.
- At minimum, screen patients who are epidemiologically linked to the index patient (i.e. patients who shared a room) and place patients on isolation precautions if they test positive.
- Dedicate a room, staff, and equipment to the patient when possible.
- If the patient is transferred, ensure that information about the infection or colonization is communicated to the accepting unit or facility.

Further information about containing and preventing transmission of these organisms can be found in the CDC's *Vital Signs: Containing Unusual Antibiotic Resistance* (<https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/containing-unusual-resistance/index.html>) and in the CDC's CRE Toolkit (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/cre/CRE-guidance-508.pdf>).