



October 28, 2022

Re: Oregon Public Health Updated
Request for Select Resistant Isolates

Dear Oregon Microbiologists,

The Oregon Public Health Division requests your continued assistance with efforts to increase surveillance of multi-drug 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 antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

We are requesting voluntary submission of specific isolates not currently required by Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR). This request is in addition to the required carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriales* (CRE) isolates and other required organisms identified below. Testing will be conducted by the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) or the regional Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) Lab in Shoreline, Washington. For isolates submitted, you will receive laboratory results for all testing performed. We have provided an attachment with additional information about the ARLN.

What isolates are required?

All labs should submit these uncommon organisms of public health significance:

1. Any pan-resistant Gram-negative bacilli— i.e., those found to be Intermediate or Resistant to the entire susceptibility panel used in the clinical lab.
2. Any suspected or confirmed *Candida auris*, *C. haemulonii*, and *C. duobushaemulonii*. Several yeast identification methods, including Vitek 2YST, API 20C, API ID 32C, BD Phoenix, MicroScan and RapID Yeast Plus, 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 www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/candidiasis/pdf/Testing-algorithm-by-Method-temp.pdf. Isolates from sterile sites or urine that your system identifies as *Candida* species can be sent for speciation.

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

For general information about *C. auris* see: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/recommendations.html>

3. Any confirmed carbapenemase-producing organism (CPO) identified by laboratories performing their own carbapenemase testing (e.g. Carba-R assay, Carba NP).

Which additional isolates are being requested and from which labs?

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

1. Carbapenem-resistant (MIC \geq 8) *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB) isolates: from urine and sterile sites (currently reporting and please send isolates)
2. *Candida* spp. isolates from blood cultures (currently reporting and sending)
3. Carbapenem-resistant (MIC \geq 8) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CR-PA) isolates are welcomed and will be tested, but the Emerging Infection Program (EIP) surveillance for CR-PA has ended.

Recruited¹ labs outside of the Portland Tri-county area, please send:

1. CRAB (MIC \geq 8) isolates: from all sources
2. CR-PA (MIC \geq 8) isolates: from all sources except ears and stool
3. *Candida* spp. isolates excluding *Candida albicans*: from sterile sites including urine
4. Unspeciated *Candida* isolates: from sterile sites including urine

What testing will be performed?

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

How to send isolates?

Please submit pure, actively growing 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 www.bitly.com/phl-forms.

For labs submitting isolates of *Candida* spp. or CRAB for ARLN testing, in the “Referral Testing” section of the Test Request Form, please indicate the order under “ARLN Submission.” Include antimicrobial susceptibility testing reports from the automated test instrument when submitting CRAB.

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

¹ Recruited labs are those outside of the Portland metro area that have been asked and have agreed to send CR-PA, CRAB and isolates of *Candida* species other than *Candida albicans* to OSPHL. If you are interested in participating in this sentinel surveillance, please contact Evelyn Donahoe, MDRO Epidemiologist. Evelyn.donahoe2@dhsosha.state.or.us

Questions?

For questions about the request, or if you are interested in participating as a sentinel lab, contact Evelyn Donahoe with the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention section, evelyn.donahoe2@dhsoha.state.or.us.

For technical questions, contact Karim Morey, karim.e.morey@dhsoha.state.or.us or Kristie Ryder, kristie.ryder@dhsoha.state.or.us at the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory.

Thank you,



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Melissa Powell, MPH
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory Interim Business Director
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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:

Provide additional support for state public health labs

Do additional testing for resistance mechanisms

Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE) and carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CR-PA)

Confirm questionable or discordant results

Support for colonization screening cultures

Carbapenemase testing on carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)

Support for colonization screening cultures

Candida spp. surveillance:

Confirm identification and perform susceptibility testing (*Candida auris*)

Monitor resistance of *Candida non-albicans*

Perform colonization screening for *C. auris*

Link to additional information about the ARLN:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/ar-lab-networks/domestic.html>