

Request CDC's AR Lab Network Test to Prevent the Spread of Emerging Carbapenem Resistance

Colonization Screening can stop "nightmare bacteria" from spreading.

Carbapenem-resistant Organisms (CRO) are a serious threat to public health. Infections with CRO are difficult, and in some cases impossible, to treat. Because patients move throughout the healthcare system, CRO in one facility can spread to other facilities in the region.

CDC's **Colonization Screening**, offered through the AR Lab Network, detects gastrointestinal colonization with carbapenemase-producing CRO. Screening is a CDC-recommended intervention that can help stop the spread of carbapenem resistance.

- 1 Alert your HAI Coordinator and request Colonization Screening.** Healthcare facilities, laboratories, and epidemiologists can work with the state HAI Coordinator to order screening and screening materials, free of charge.

Look up your HAI Coordinator on [the state-based HAI prevention page](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/state-based) (<https://www.cdc.gov/hai/state-based>)

Find [CDC's CRE Guidance: \[PDF - 24 pages\]](#) (www.cdc.gov/hai/pdfs/cre/CRE-guidance-508.pdf)

- 2 Send swabs to your regional lab.** Your HAI Coordinator will help connect you to your CDC AR Laboratory Network regional lab who will conduct colonization testing and send screening results to your facility, your HAI coordinator, and the state public health laboratory within one day of testing.

- 3 Implement infection control.** Adjust infection control measures based on screening results. Follow procedures in the [CRE Control and Prevention Toolkit \[PDF - 56 pages\]](https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/publications/files/cretoolkit.pdf). (<https://www.ahrq.gov/sites/default/files/publications/files/cretoolkit.pdf>).

Colonization Screenings

- Uncover hidden reservoirs of emerging carbapenem resistance
- Are performed after a confirmed infection
- Detect the pathogen among patient contacts and people who recently received health care outside of the U.S.

SHIPPING AND TESTING ARE FREE

RESULTS IN 2 DAYS OR LESS



Your state and regional lab work to:



Detect resistant species & new threats



Perform susceptibility testing to track resistance



Help respond to outbreaks

CDC's AR Lab Network can also test:

- Drug-resistant *Candida*, like *C. auris*
- Drug-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA)
- *Clostridioides difficile*
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Antimicrobial susceptibility to new drugs for hard-to-treat infections
- Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii*
- Other urgent and serious AR pathogens
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

For more information on CDC's AR Lab Network, visit: www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/laboratories.html



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control