

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

Colonization Screening can stop "nightmare bacteria" from spreading.

Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) are a serious threat to public health. Infections with CRE are difficult, and in some cases impossible, to treat. Because patients move throughout the healthcare system, CRE in one facility can spread to other facilities in the region. CDC's new Colonization Screening, offered through the AR Lab Network, detects gastrointestinal colonization with carbapenemase-producing CRE and other important healthcare threats, like *Pseudomonas* and *Acinetobacter*. 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 receive test kits, free of charge.

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

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>).

Colonization Screenings:

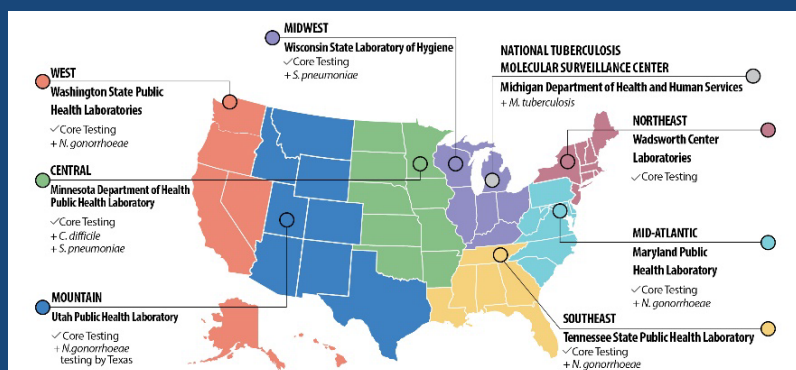
- Uncover hidden reservoirs of carbapenem resistance
- Are performed after a confirmed infection
- Detect the bug among epi-linked patients, high-risk contacts, and people who recently received healthcare outside of the U.S.

CDC's AR Lab Network can also test:

- Drug-resistant *Candida*, like *C. auris*
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA)
- Emerging threats, like *mcr* (plasmid-mediated colistin resistance)
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*
- Drug-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
- *Clostridioides difficile*
- Antimicrobial susceptibility to new drugs for hard-to-treat infections
- Other urgent and serious AR pathogens

Your state and regional lab work to: Detect resistant species & new threats | Perform susceptibility testing to track resistance | Help respond to outbreaks

- ☑ Shipping and testing are free
- ☑ Results in 2 days or less



About CDC's AR Lab Network

The AR Lab Network can rapidly detect antibiotic resistance in healthcare, food, and the community, and inform local responses to prevent spread and protect people. The AR Lab Network supports lab capacity for CRE/CRPA isolate testing in 55 state and local labs, including 7 regional labs and the National TB Center. The regional labs provide core testing, including *Candida* testing and CRE colonization testing, for states in their region. Some perform additional screening for *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, and *Clostridioides difficile*.

[AR Lab Network Testing & Resources](https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/laboratories.html)
(<https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/laboratories.html>)



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