

Public Health Advisory
**Health Officer Order:
Reporting of Carbapenem-Resistant
Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)
March 23, 2017**

BACKGROUND

Antibiotics remain a major armament against bacterial infections and even in the present day substantially reduce morbidity and mortality in those patients for whom such treatment is indicated. Unfortunately, due to inappropriate selection and utilization, antimicrobial resistance is a growing problem both locally and nationally. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates at least 2 million people become infected with bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics and at least 23,000 people die each year due to those infections. It is believed through indirect data that Riverside County is similarly affected, and there is a need to improve our direct surveillance capacity to accurately measure the impact of resistant infections.

The Riverside County Health Officer, in discussion with other local health officers in surrounding counties, has identified carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) as an emerging problem due to its difficult treatment, its higher mortality rate, and its ability to spread easily in health care facilities. Organisms include as CRE include but are by no means limited to carbapenemase-secreting forms of *Klebsiella* spp., *Escherichia* spp. (including *E.coli* in various forms), and *Enterobacter* spp., all of which can cause serious infection.

HEALTH OFFICER ORDER

By order of the Riverside County Public Health Officer, carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) infections must be reported to the Riverside County Department of Public Health by clinical laboratories within seven (7) calendar days of identification from specimens collected on or after May 1, 2017. Laboratories should report this information electronically via their existing Electronic Laboratory Reporting (ELR) method to the state CalREDIE system, where reports will be accessed, reviewed and tabulated by the Riverside County Department of Public Health Disease Control branch. If a laboratory has not been validated for reporting through ELR, the report must be faxed to Disease Control at 951-358-5102.

In addition, **licensed physicians at all care levels are reminded that novel disease outbreaks**, which would certainly include isolates of unusual or extraordinary breadth of antibiotic resistance, are always **reportable to the local health department under existing state law**. A Confidentiality Morbidity Form (CMR) is minimally required; telephone reporting may also be necessary for novel disease outbreaks of sufficient acuity using the contact numbers above.

We appreciate your help in keeping all residents of Riverside County healthy.