



CITY OF HOUSTON

Houston Health Department

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Dear Laboratory Network Partner,

You recently received a letter from the Texas Department of State Health Services concerning submission of CRE and CRPA isolates for confirmation and characterization to the City of Houston Public Health Laboratory. Your participation in this program is instrumental for the City to better understand and track trends in these highly resistant organisms. As follow-up to that correspondence, please note that the following:

1) Submission of only the isolates listed below may be submitted for confirmation and characterization:

- Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE): ***Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Klebsiella pneumonia***, and ***Enterobacter*** spp. resistant to imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, or ertapenem by standard Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing (AST) methods.
- 2) Carbapenem-Resistant ***Pseudomonas aeruginosa*** (CRPA): All *P. aeruginosa* isolates that are resistant to imipenem, meropenem, or doripenem by standard AST methods.

2) At the beginning of each month facilities may send 10% of their CRE (designated species only) and CRPA isolates from the previous month (i.e. on August 1 – send in 10% of the CRE/CRPA isolates identified in July) to the laboratory. Only facilities located in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Orange, Walker, Waller or Wharton counties, should submit isolates to the City of Houston Public Health Laboratory.

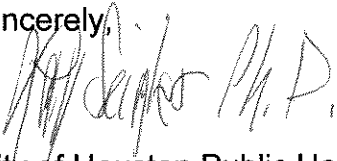
3) Facilities may begin submitting isolates on July 15th, 2017.

Please note that all notifiable conditions should continue to be reported at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/investigation/conditions/contacts/>. **There will not be any change in the reporting protocols for notifiable conditions.**

Attached with this email letter is the appropriate submission form with information on shipping the samples. Any additional requests for information should be sent to: HoustonARLN@houstontx.gov.

Thank you for joining in this partnership with us in the prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. [Name]", written over the word "Sincerely,".

City of Houston Public Health Laboratory

City of Houston Healthcare Associated Infections/Antibiotic Resistance Prevention (HAI/AR) Program