



Minnesota
Department
of Health

PROTECTING, MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF ALL MINNESOTANS

October 17, 2016

Dear Infection Preventionist:

Thank you for all that you do to partner with us regarding public health in Minnesota. I am writing to notify you that the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) is instituting sentinel surveillance for carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA). This began on July 1, 2016. MDH is conducting this surveillance pursuant to Minnesota Rules 4605.7000 to 4605.7900. Specifically, Minnesota Rules, 4605.7046, permits the Commissioner of Health to require sentinel surveillance of infectious diseases and syndromes if certain criteria are met. Documentation on the approved proposal for this change as well as details on CRPA reporting is available on the MDH [website](#).

In 2009, MDH received the first isolate of CRPA submitted for confirmation and additional testing. Since this time the MDH Public Health Lab (PHL) has continued to run additional testing on voluntarily submitted CRPA as well as assisting in facility outbreaks of CRPA. Sentinel surveillance will allow MDH to quantify the burden of CRPA in the catchment area, gain a better understanding of the epidemiology of the organism, provide feedback to facilities regarding carbapenemase-producing CRPA (CP-CRPA), and improve outbreak response.

The definition of CRPA will be consistent with current Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) guidelines. It will include *P. aeruginosa* isolated from all body sites, resistant to one or more carbapenem (meropenem, imipenem, or doripenem) or shows production of a carbapenemase (such as VIM) demonstrated by additional testing, if such testing is done. Sentinel surveillance for CRPA will include the submission of laboratory isolates to the PHL for further characterization, the submission of susceptibility and other specimen test results, and demographic and clinical case report information.

Your participation in this surveillance program is greatly appreciated. Your hospital will be instrumental in the characterization of CRPA throughout Minnesota and in contributing to the prevention and control of these highly resistant bacteria. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Medora Witwer at 651-201-5414 or Medora.Witwer@state.mn.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward P. Ehlinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Edward P. Ehlinger, MD, MSPH
Commissioner
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