MLS Laboratory Update: AR Lab Network Submission Form - Updates

OCTOBER 30, 2026

Purpose of this Message:

To inform MLS and AR Lab Network laboratories about updates to the AR Lab Network Central Region Lab submission form. It can be accessed along with instructions for filling the form out here: Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Laboratory Network - MN Dept. of Health (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/arln.html)

Action Item:

Please forward this information to all Laboratory and Specimen Send-out staff and Epidemiology and Infection Prevention and Control partners who fill out submission forms.

Please discard any printed or electronic versions of this form unless the version is May 2026 v4.2 or later.

Background:

Please use Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Lab Network Central Region Lab submission form found here: Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Laboratory Network - MN Dept. of Health (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/arln.html) when submitting the following specimens and isolates:

Specimens:

- *Candida auris* colonization screening
- Carbapenem-resistant organism (CRO) screening by GeneXpert® Carba-R
- Carbapenem-resistant organism screening by culture-based methods (e.g., CRAB, non-rectal/perirectal sources)

Isolates:

- Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter* spp., Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales, and Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas* spp. isolates
- *Candida* spp. isolates
    - Exception: isolates from blood cultures for MN EIP surveillance, please continue to use the MDH General Infectious Disease Lab submission form (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html).
- *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates,

    - Exception: invasive isolates for MN EIP surveillance, please continue to use the MDH General Infectious Disease Lab submission form (https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/forms.html).
- Metallo-β-lactamase-producing Enterobacterales isolates for Expanded AST (aztreonam/avibactam)
- CRO and *C. auris* isolates for whole genome sequencing

Changes to the form:

- Checkbox for "Originating facility is same as Submitting" was added to the Submitter section.
    - Check this box if the originating facility is the same as the submitting facility.
    - **DO NOT** check this box if the submitting facility is entered as the laboratory. Laboratories should not be entered as originating facilities. Those fields are asking about where the patient was located when the specimen was collected (e.g., clinic, hospital, nursing home). If you don't have that information, leave those fields blank.
- Statement "Specify testing needed:" added to the Carbapenem Resistant Organism Colonization Screening by Culture (CPOCX) checkbox.
    - The checkboxes below this statement are necessary for our specimen receiving and lab staff to know which testing was specifically requested.
- Checkboxes added to the Isolate Test Requested section to select when submitting isolates for whole-genome sequencing.
    - AR Lab Network Bacteria Sequencing (ARLNSEQ)
    - *Candida auris* Sequencing (CASEQ)

Questions:

If you have any questions, please contact Paula Snippes Vagnone, paula.snippes@state.mn.us

Thank you,

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND RESPONSE PARTNERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW THE INFORMATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT GROUPS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.