I. Statement of the Problem
Carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant \textit{Enterobacteriaceae} (CP-CRE) are an emerging public health problem in the United States. Interventions to control the spread of CP-CRE require:

1) Uniform, consistent classification and count of CP-CRE both within and across public health jurisdictions to facilitate reporting CP-CRE data to professional audiences, policy makers, and the public
2) Actionable epidemiology for healthcare facilities about CP-CRE detection, prevention and response.

The overall aim is containment of CP-CRE.

II. Background and Justification
In this position statement, CP-CRE is defined as:

- \textit{E. coli, Klebsiella spp., or Enterobacter} spp. where the isolate is:
  - Positive for carbapenemase production by a phenotypic method
  - OR
  - Positive for a known carbapenemase resistance mechanism by a recognized test

CP-CRE are an emerging and epidemiologically important threat. Since the first detection of CP-CRE in the United States in 1996 \cite{1}, CP-CRE have spread rapidly, with cases reported in 49 of 50 states \cite{2}. Infections with CP-CRE are difficult to treat and associated with high mortality rates \cite{3}. Carbapenem antibiotics are often used as the last line of treatment for infections caused by highly resistant bacteria, including those in the \textit{Enterobacteriaceae} family. Increased antimicrobial resistance limits treatment options \cite{4}. CP-CRE contain mobile resistance elements that facilitate transmission of resistance to other Gram negative bacilli \cite{5}. Early detection and aggressive implementation of infection prevention and control strategies are necessary to prevent further spread of CP-CRE, especially novel CP-CRE. These strategies require an understanding of the prevalence or incidence of CP-CRE. The development and use of a standardized definition is central to this process. Application of this standardized definition through active public health surveillance will allow for timely public health action.

The detection of CP-CRE is complicated and carbapenem resistance among \textit{Enterobacteriaceae} can be due to a variety of mechanisms \cite{6}. The mechanism of resistance among CRE that is currently of greatest public health concern is production of carbapenemase enzymes, most notably, \textit{Klebsiella pneumoniae} carbapenemase (KPC) \cite{7}. Carbapenemases of concern include, but are not limited to, KPC, New Delhi metallo-\(\beta\)-lactamase (NDM), Verona integron-encoded metallo-\(\beta\)-lactamase (VIM), imipenemase (IMP) metallo-\(\beta\)-lactamase, and oxacillinase-48 (OXA-48). There is wide variability in the capacity of clinical and public health laboratories for the detection of CP-CRE. However, capacity is being built at the state and regional level (e.g. Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network [ARLN]) \cite{8}. Please refer to additional operational guidance for assistance in implementation of this position statement.
III. Statement of the desired action(s) to be taken

1. Utilize standard sources (e.g. reporting*) for case ascertainment for CP-CRE. Surveillance for CP-CRE should use the following recommended sources of data to the extent of coverage presented in Table III.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source of data for case ascertainment</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinician reporting</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory reporting</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting by other entities (e.g., hospitals, veterinarians, pharmacies, poison centers)</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death certificates</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital discharge or outpatient records</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extracts from electronic medical records</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School-based survey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Utilize standardized criteria for case identification and classification (Sections VI and VII) for CP-CRE and add CP-CRE to the *Nationally Notifiable Condition List.*

- 2a. Immediately notifiable, extremely urgent (within 4 hours)
- 2b. Immediately notifiable, urgent (within 24 hours)
- 2c. Routinely notifiable

CSTE recommends that all States and Territories enact laws (statute or rule/regulation as appropriate) to make this disease or condition reportable in their jurisdiction. Jurisdictions (e.g. States and Territories) conducting surveillance (according to these methods) should submit case notifications** to CDC.

Expectations for Message Mapping Guide (MMG) development for a newly notifiable condition: NNDSS is transitioning to HL7-based messages for case notifications; the specifications for these messages are presented in MMGs. When CSTE recommends that a new condition be made nationally notifiable, CDC must obtain OMB PRA approval prior to accepting case notifications for the new condition. Under anticipated timelines, notification using the Generic V2 MMG would support transmission of the basic demographic and epidemiologic information common to all cases and could begin with the new MMWR year following the CSTE annual conference. Input from CDC programs and CSTE would prioritize development of a disease-specific MMG for the new condition among other conditions waiting for MMGs.

3. CDC should publish data on CP-CRE as appropriate in *MMWR* and other venues (see Section IX).

CSTE recommends that all jurisdictions (e.g. States or Territories) with legal authority to conduct public health surveillance follow the recommended methods as outlined above.

4. Jurisdictions should stratify reports of cases of CP-CRE using the methods outlined in Section VII.
5. CSTE recommends that health departments and public health laboratories should work with clinical laboratories to collaborate for the identification and timely reporting of CP-CRE to infection control and public health authorities to ensure timely communication and intervention. Interfacility communication should be strongly encouraged (also see CSTE position statement 16-ID-09: Interfacility Communication to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistant pathogens across healthcare settings (10)).

6. CSTE recommends that a working group be established that includes CSTE and CDC members to develop a message mapping guide.

IV. Goals of Surveillance
To provide information on the temporal, geographic, and demographic occurrence of CP-CRE to facilitate its prevention and control; the aim is containment of CP-CRE.

V. Methods for Surveillance: Surveillance for CRE and CP-CRE should use the recommended sources of data and the extent of coverage listed in Table III. The primary source of data will be the microbiology laboratory. The laboratory should report CP-CRE with all available quantitative and qualitative susceptibility data, results (positive, negative, intermediate) of phenotypic carbapenemase production tests as well as results (positive and negative) of any tests performed for resistance mechanisms (e.g., KPC PCR). to public health authorities. Healthcare facilities and clinicians who become aware of patients with CP-CRE should report these to public health authorities. Other data sources (e.g., death certificates or hospital discharge data) may be used as supplementary case finding methods; their yield is unknown.

VI. Criteria for case identification

A. Narrative: A description of suggested criteria for case ascertainment of a specific condition.
Given the variability in capability to detect CP-CRE among clinical laboratories, consideration to the individual laboratory’s capabilities is necessary when determining what results are reported to public health authorities. Which laboratory results are considered reportable is determined by whether a laboratory has the capability to detect CP-CRE or not.

Laboratories with the capability to detect CP-CRE should report to public health authorities any of the following laboratory results:

Entero bacter spp, E. coli or Klebsiella spp:

Positive for known carbapenemase resistance mechanism (e.g., KPC, NDM, VIM, IMP, OXA-48) demonstrated by a recognized test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR), Xpert Carba-R)

OR

Positive on a phenotypic test for carbapenemase production (e.g, metallo-β-lactamase test, modified Hodge test, Carba NP, Carbapenem Inactivation Method (CIM), or modified CIM (mCIM)).

Laboratories without the capability to detect CP-CRE should report all identified CRE to public health authorities, to include any of the following laboratory results:

Entero bacter spp, E. coli or Klebsiella spp:
Resistant to any carbapenem (minimum inhibitory concentrations of ≥4 mcg/ml for meropenem, imipenem, and doripenem or ≥ 2 mcg/ml for ertapenem)

Note: Negative PCR for all known resistance mechanism (e.g., KPC, NDM, VIM, IMP, OXA-48) if accompanied by positive phenotypic test for carbapenemase production (e.g., mCIM, CIM, CarbaNP) should be reported urgently to STLT public health (and isolate submitted to ARLN regional laboratory via state public health laboratory) as it could signify a novel carbapenemase.

Report to public health authorities a person whose healthcare record contains a diagnosis of CP-CRE, KPC, NDM, OXA-48, IMP or VIM or novel carbapenemase.

Note: STLT health departments may choose to expand the list of organisms reportable to Public Health beyond Klebsiella spp, E. coli and Enterobacter spp., especially if there is phenotypic evidence of carbapenemase production (e.g., mCIM), whether or not accompanied by known CP resistance mechanism. Isolates that are phenotypically positive for carbapenemase production, but negative for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, and IMP should be submitted to the regional laboratories of the ARLN for further characterization. For details see additional operational guidance for assistance in implementation of this position statement.

### B. Table of criteria to determine whether a case should be reported to public health authorities

#### Table VI-B. Table of criteria to determine whether a case should be reported to public health authorities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Healthcare record contains a diagnosis of Carbapenemase producing Carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CP-CRE), KPC, NDM, OXA-48, IMP or VIM or novel carbapenemase</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any isolate of Enterobacter spp, E. coli, or Klebsiella spp demonstrating carbapenemase production by a phenotypic method (e.g., Carba NP, CIM, mCIM)</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any isolate of Enterobacter spp, E. coli, or Klebsiella spp with a known carbapenemase resistance mechanism by a recognized test (e.g., PCR, Expert Carba-R)</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**If laboratories are unable to detect CP-CRE, (i.e, cannot test for carbapenemase production or resistance mechanism):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Any isolate of Enterobacter spp, E. coli, or Klebsiella spp that is resistant to any carbapenem (minimum inhibitory concentrations of ≥4 mcg/ml for meropenem, imipenem, and doripenem or ≥ 2 mcg/ml for ertapenem)</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

S = This criterion alone is Sufficient to report a case.

* A requisition or order for any of the “S” laboratory tests is sufficient to meet the reporting criteria.

### C. Disease-specific data elements

None
VII. Case Definition for Case Classification

Three conditions codes should be created:
- CP-CRE- *Klebsiella* spp.
- CP-CRE- *E coli*
- CP-CRE- *Enterobacter* spp.

1) Each condition code should be stratified by whether the cultures were **clinical** (i.e., collected for the purpose of diagnosing or treating disease in the course of normal care) versus **screening/surveillance cultures** (i.e., collected for the detection of colonization and not for the purpose of diagnosing or treating disease). Because it can be difficult to differentiate screening cultures from clinical cultures based on microbiology records, screening tests should generally be limited to rectal, peri-rectal or stool cultures. Cultures from such sites can be assumed to be for screening unless specifically noted otherwise. Laboratory may also note screening culture for other sites (e.g., wounds, tracheostomy or central line sites). Laboratories do not need to change their practice; public health wants to identify all CP-CRE whether they come from screening or clinical cultures.

2) **Resistance mechanism** if known (e.g., KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, IMP). Consider listing the number of instances of multiple resistance mechanisms within the same isolate (e.g., NDM + OXA-48).

A. Narrative: Description of criteria to determine how a case should be classified.

**Confirmed:** meets below laboratory criteria.

**Clinical Criteria**
None

**Laboratory Criteria**

Laboratory evidence of carbapenemase production in an isolate by a phenotypic method or positive for a known carbapenemase resistance mechanism by the specific testing methods, such as:

- Phenotypic methods for carbapenemase production:
  - Carba NP positive
  - Metallo-β-lactamase testing (e.g., E-test) positive
  - Modified Carbapenem Inactivation Method (mCIM) positive or indeterminate
  - Carbapenem Inactivation Method (CIM) positive
  - Modified Hodge Test (MHT) positive
  - Positive for phenotypic carbapenemase production (e.g., mCIM, CIM, CarbaNP) but negative by PCR (e.g., Xpert Carba-R) for all known resistance mechanisms (e.g., KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, IMP)

- Molecular methods for resistance mechanism:
  - PCR positive (for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, IMP, or VIM)
  - Xpert Carba-R positive (for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, IMP)
  - PCR or Xpert Carba-R positive for novel carbapenemase

**Case Classification**

**Confirmed**

*E. coli, Klebsiella* spp., or *Enterobacter* spp. from any isolate that is

Positive for known carbapenemase resistance mechanism (e.g., KPC, NDM, VIM, IMP, OXA-48) demonstrated by a recognized test (e.g., polymerase chain reaction (PCR), Xpert Carba-R)

OR

Positive on a phenotypic test for carbapenemase production (e.g., metallo-β-lactamase test, modified Hodge test, Carba NP, Carbapenem Inactivation Method (CIM), or modified CIM (mCIM)).
Notes:

1. Cases involving isolates that are phenotypically positive for carbapenemase production (e.g., mCIM), but negative for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, and IMP should be counted as confirmed CP-CRE. Isolates should be submitted to the regional laboratories of the ARLN for further characterization (potential novel carbapenemase).

2. A positive Modified Hodge Test (MHT) can be used to confirm CP-CRE for *Klebsiella* spp and *E. coli* but not *Enterobacter* spp. An isolate that tests positive on MHT but negative PCR for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM and IMP should have additional characterization performed with another phenotypic test for carbapenemase such as mCIM.

3. If isolate is indeterminate on mCIM and negative by PCR for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM and IMP, isolate should be tested using CarbaNP (at state public health laboratory or regional ARLN lab).

Please see additional operational guidance for assistance in implementation of this position statement, including performance characteristics of laboratory tests.

Criteria to distinguish a new case of this disease or condition from reports or notifications which should not be enumerated as a new case for surveillance

- Different organisms/species/carbapenemases are counted as separate events from other organisms/species/carbapenemases
- There is at least a 12 month interval from previous notification event for clinical cases.
- A person with a clinical case should not be counted as a screening/surveillance case thereafter (e.g., patient with known infection who later has colonization of GI tract is not counted as more than one case)
- A person with a screening case can be later categorized as a clinical case (e.g., patient with positive peri-rectal screening swab who later develops blood stream infection would be counted in both categories).

**B. Classification Tables**

**Table VII-B. Criteria for defining a case of CP-CRE.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>CONFIRMED CP-CRE <em>Klebsiella</em> spp.</th>
<th>CONFIRMED CP-CRE <em>Escherichia coli</em></th>
<th>CONFIRMED CP-CRE <em>Enterobacter</em> spp.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Laboratory evidence</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Klebsiella</em> spp. isolated from any clinical specimen, including screening/surveillance swabs</td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Escherichia coli</em> isolated from any clinical specimen, including screening/surveillance swabs</td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Enterobacter</em> spp isolated from any clinical specimen, including screening/surveillance swabs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCR positive (for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, or IMP)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xpert Carba-R positive (for KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, or IMP)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mCIM positive</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CarbaNP positive</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### CIM positive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Metallo-β-lactamase test (e.g., MBL E-test) positive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
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</thead>
</table>

### Modified Hodge Test (MHT) positive

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Positive for phenotypic carbapenemase production (e.g., mCIM, CIM, CarbaNP) but negative by PCR (e.g., Xpert Carba-R) for all known resistance mechanisms (KPC, NDM, OXA-48, VIM, IMP) i.e., likely novel carbapenemase

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
<th>O</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Criteria to distinguish a new case

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

- Different organism/species/ carbapenemases are counted as separate events from other species/ carbapenemases
- Not counted as previous case in last 12 months
- A person with a clinical case should not be counted as a screening/surveillance case thereafter (e.g., patient with known infection who later has colonization of GI tract is not counted as more than one case)
- A person with a screening case can be later categorized as a clinical case (e.g., patient with positive peri-rectal screening swab who later develops blood stream infection would be counted in both categories).

*should refer for CarbaNP testing; Please see additional operational guidance for assistance in implementation of this position statement, including performance characteristics of laboratory tests

**S** = This criterion alone is Sufficient to classify a case.

**N** = All “N” criteria in the same column are Necessary to classify a case. A number following an “N” indicates that this criterion is only required for a specific disease/condition subtype (see below). If the absence of a criterion (i.e., criterion NOT present) is required for the case to meet the classification criteria, list the Absence of criterion as a Necessary component.

**O** = At least one of these “O” (One or more) criteria in each category (e.g., clinical evidence and laboratory evidence) in the same column—in conjunction with all “N” criteria in the same column—is required to classify a case. (These “O” criteria are alternatives, which means that a single column will have either no O criteria or multiple O criteria; no column should have only one O.) A number following an “O” indicates that this criterion is only required for a specific disease/condition subtype.

### VIII. Period of Surveillance

Surveillance is expected to be ongoing, as this is an emerging pathogen.

### IX. Data sharing/release and print criteria

- State and territorial health departments should report confirmed cases of CP-CRE to CDC.
- Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion (DHQP) staff should review, analyze, and summarize the national data at least monthly. Provisional state-specific CP-CRE disease case counts should be provided and updated at regular intervals in national summary reports displayed on the CDC website. These provisional data are used to: 1) Monitor the epidemiology and geographic spread of CP-CRE; 2) Provide timely information regarding regional and national trends in CP-CRE disease reporting to public health officials and others; and 3) Identify geographic areas where additional prevention and control efforts may be needed. In circumstances where there is a potential for an international health impact, data from these notifications may be shared with international partners.
- Provisional data on confirmed CP-CRE disease cases may be published weekly in the provisional Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) tables and posted on a CDC DHQP website. Final
data should be published annually in the MMWR Summary of Notifiable Diseases and presented or published at scientific meetings.

- Additional tables and limited use datasets may be made available to researchers, pharmaceutical companies, media, and the general public upon request to CDC’s DHQP. These final data are used to: 1) Monitor the epidemiology, incidence, and geographic spread of CP-CRE; 2) Identify geographic areas in which it may be appropriate to conduct analytic studies of control methods, risk factors, disease severity, or other public health aspects; and 3) Evaluate CP-CRE preparedness and response funding needs and allocate resources.

X. Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Statement ID</th>
<th>Section of Document</th>
<th>Revision Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>Statement of the desired action(s) to be taken</td>
<td>ADDED CP-CRE condition to the NNC list</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>B: Table VII-B - Confirmed</td>
<td>CHANGED TO RESTRICT TO CP-CRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>B/ Table VII-B - Confirmed</td>
<td>ADDED CIM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>B/ Table VII-B - Confirmed</td>
<td>ADDED mCIM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>B/ Table VII-B - Confirmed</td>
<td>ADDED Xpert Carba-R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>B/ Table VIIIB New Case</td>
<td>Removed Enterobacter spp from MHT positive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-ID-05</td>
<td>B Subclassification/ stratification</td>
<td>Added resistance mechanism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

XI. References


9. CSTE position statement 15-ID-05: Standardized definition for Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) and recommendation for sub-classification and stratified reporting

10. CSTE position statement 16-ID-09: Interfacility Communication to prevent and control healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistant pathogens across healthcare settings
XII. Coordination

Agencies for Response
(1) CDC
   Brenda Fitzgerald, MD
   Director
   1600 Clifton Road, NE
   Atlanta, GA 30333
   Telephone: 404-639-7000
   Email: director@cdc.gov
   Acs1@cdc.gov

Agencies for Information:
(1) Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology
   Katrina Crist, MBA
   Chief Executive Officer
   1275 K St. NW, Suite 1000
   Washington, DC 20005-4006
   202-789-1890
   kcrist@apic.org

(2) Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
   Eve Humphreys, MBA, CAE
   Executive Director
   1300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 300
   Arlington, VA 22209
   703-684-1006
   ehumphreys@shea-online.org

(3) Health Level Seven (HL7)
   Donald T. Mon, PhD
   Chair, HL7 Board of Directors Health Level Seven International
   3300 Washtenaw Ave., Suite 227
   Ann Arbor, MI 48104
   734-677-7777
   donmon@rti.org

(4) Food and Drug Administration
   Stephen Ostroff, MD
   Commissioner of Food and Drugs (Acting)
   10903 New Hampshire Ave
   Silver Springs, MD 20992-0002 1-888-463-6332
   Stephen.Ostroff@fda.hhs.gov

(5) Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)
   Jack Zakowski, PhD, FACB
   950 West Valley Road,
   Suite 2500
   Wayne, PA 19087
   877.447.1888
   customerservice@clsi.org

(6) Infectious Disease Society of America
   William G. Powderly, MD, FIDSA
   1300 Wilson Boulevard
   Suite 300
   Arlington, VA 22209
   1-703-229-0200
American Society of Microbiology
Peggy Cotter, PhD, President
1752 N St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
1-202-737-3600
service@asmusa.org

XIII. Submitting Author
(1) Marion Angelika Kainer MD, MPH, FRACP, FSHEA
Director, Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program
Tennessee Department of Health
710, James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN, 37243
615-741-7247
marion.kainer@tn.gov

Co-Author:
(1) □Active Member □Associate Member
DJ Shannon, MPH
Multidrug-Resistant Organism Epidemiologist, Infectious Disease Epidemiology
Indiana State Department of Health
2 North Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-233-1306
dshannon1@isdh.in.gov

(2) □Active Member □Associate Member
T. Scott Troppy, MPH
Surveillance Epidemiologist, Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
305 South Street, 5th Floor, Room 554
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
617-983-6801
scott.troppy@state.ma.us

(3) □Active Member □Associate Member
Medora L. Witwer, MPH
Epidemiologist, Health Care-associated Infections and Antibiotic Resistance Unit
Minnesota Department of Health
625 Robert St. N
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-4569
medora.witwer@state.mn.us

(4) □Active Member □Associate Member
Marisa A. D’Angeli, MD, MPH
Medical Epidemiologist
Washington State Department of Health
1610 NE 150th St
Shoreline, WA 98155
206-418-5595
marisa.dangeli@DOH.wa.gov

(5) □Active Member □Associate Member
Heather Dubendris
Healthcare Associated Infections Epidemiologist, Division of Public Health,
Communicable Disease Branch
North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
225 N. McDowell St.
Raleigh, NC 27603
919 546 1654
heather.dubendris@dhhs.nc.gov

(6)  ☑ Active Member   ☐ Associate Member
     Allison M. Chan, MPH
     Epidemiologist, Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program
     Tennessee Department of Health
     710 James Robertson Parkway
     Nashville, TN, 37243
     615-532-6401
     Allison.chan@tn.gov

(7)  ☑ Active Member   ☐ Associate Member
     Wendy Bamberg, MD
     Medical Epidemiologist
     Healthcare-Associated Infections Program Manager
     Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
     4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80237
     303-692-2491
     wendy.bamberg@state.co.us

(8)  ☑ Active Member   ☐ Associate Member
     Kerri Barton, MPH
     Epidemiologist/ AR Coordinator
     Massachusetts Department of Public Health
     305 South St, 5th floor, Room 511
     Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
     617-983-6800
     kerri.barton@state.ma.us

(9)  ☑ Active Member   ☐ Associate Member
     Eileen Farnon, MD, DTM&H, FIDSA, FACP
     HAI/AR Program Director
     Philadelphia Department of Public Health
     500 S. Broad St., 2nd Floor
     Philadelphia, PA 19146
     215-685-6827
     eileen.farnon@phila.gov