Rigoberto Vargas, MPH

Director

Robert Levin, MD

Health Officer/Medical Director

May 8, 2017

TO: All Acute Care Hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities in Ventura County

FROM: Robert M Levin, MD

Health Officer

RE: Health Officer Order for Reporting of Carbapenem-Resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* and Antimicrobial Resistance

In order to better understand the magnitude of the carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) problem and identify areas for public health intervention, I am issuing this Health Officer order. All acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities shall report CRE to the Ventura County Department of Public Health (VCPH) by Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR). In addition, I am requiring all acute care hospitals and those skilled nursing facilities that generate an antibiogram to provide VCPH the most recent antibiogram each year.

CRE, defined as *Enterobacteriaceae (Klebsiella sp., E. coli,* and *Enterobacter* sp.) resistant to carbapenem antibiotics or that produce carbapenemases, are epidemiologically important healthcare-associated pathogens. Studies have shown that CRE infections are difficult to treat, the mortality rate is high, and infection is easily spread between patients in healthcare facilities. From 2010-2012, when carbapenem-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (CRKP), a subset of CRE, was a reportable condition, more than 2,000 cases were reported to the Los Angeles Department of Public Health. Reliable rates of CRKP and other CRE infections in healthcare facilities are not available for Ventura County. As CRE continues to grow in public health importance, reporting is necessary to monitor, prevent and control these resistant organisms to protect the public's health.

An antibiogram, defined as an annual summary of susceptibility rates for selected bacterial pathogens, provides comprehensive information about local antimicrobial resistance. Within health care organizations, this information is combined with clinical expertise to guide optimal antimicrobial treatment for patients with CRE or other serious infections. Annual consolidation of organizational antibiograms to create a community antibiogram will allow VCPH to evaluate temporal trends and geographic patterns of antimicrobial resistance within Ventura County and to guide control efforts.

**ORDER:** Pursuant to my authority under section 120175 of the California Health and Safety Code and Title 17, sections 2500-2505, I hereby order:

1. Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities shall report CRE, as defined above, to VCPH by CMR within 7 calendar days of the time of identification, including a copy of the laboratory report. Laboratories already reporting via automated Electronic Laboratory Reporting should continue to do so.
2. Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities shall submit an antibiogram with susceptibilities defined using Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute criteria, in an electronic format to VCPH on an annual basis. This provision shall not apply to skilled nursing facilities that do not annually create an antibiogram.

Compliance with the order is required by the following dates:

* + Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities shall report clinical laboratory CRE-positive tests collected from January 1, 2017
  + Acute care hospitals and skilled nursing facilities that create an antibiogram shall complete the [antibiogram](http://www.vchca.org/for-health-care-providers-cmr-tb-forms) electronically by February 15 each year for the previous year. Antibiograms for 2016 shall be submitted by July 1.2017

**DURATION OF ORDER:** This Order will remain in effect until rescinded by the Health Officer.

Information on CRE and guidelines for control of CRE infections in health care facilities are available on the [VCPH website](https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/) (https://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cre/cre-toolkit/) and the Antiobiogram Report template is available at <http://www.vchca.org/for-health-care-providers-cmr-tb-forms>.

For questions regarding this Order, please contact the VCPH Communicable Disease Control Program at (805) 981-5201.