



National Office
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

August 7, 2024

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30329

Dear CDC:

I am writing regarding a concerning rise in the number of carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CP-CRE) isolates among children, as identified by state and other health departments across the U.S. Historically, CP-CRE infections in the U.S. have been primarily identified in adult patients with extensive hospital and/or long-term care stays. Preliminary data reported to CDC indicate that from January 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024, 280 clinical isolates of CP-CRE were identified among children across 39 jurisdictions, as compared to 187 positive isolates over the prior two years. Given this concerning rise in CP-CRE among a vulnerable and previously rarely affected patient population, it is important to understand the epidemiology and risk factors of recent infections to inform future public health actions, including to guide prevention and control efforts.

The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) strongly supports a centrally coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigation of CP-CRE identified among children in U.S. healthcare settings and reported to state, local, and territorial health departments in the U.S. from January 2023 through March 2024. CSTE also recommends multi-jurisdictional technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). A multi-jurisdictional coordinated investigation will assist each public health jurisdiction in making rapid, practical decisions for actions to prevent and control the rise in CP-CRE infections. This approach will streamline and strengthen the response, as opposed to multiple jurisdictional investigations independently addressing CP-CRE monitoring and risk assessment among children.

Each jurisdiction participating in the multi-jurisdictional response would retain ownership of and is responsible for all data collected within their respective jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

Janet Hamilton, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists