



National Office
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists

November 15, 2024

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

Dear CDC:

I am writing in support of an extension for the data collection period for the ongoing multistate response activity regarding rapid characterization of carbapenemase-producing carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CP-CRE) isolates among children. Of 33 participating state and local health departments, at least 3 (representing 15% of isolates) have indicated they will need additional time beyond the 90-day period, due to the large number of cases and pending receipt of medical records from healthcare facilities.

To reiterate the context, historically CP-CRE infections in the U.S. were primarily identified in adult patients with extensive hospital and/or long-term care stays. However, 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) continues to strongly support this 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 continues to recommend multi-jurisdictional technical assistance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This 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 will 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