

Mission:

To protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Joseph A. Ladapo, MD, PhD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

Isolate Submission Request

October 06, 2025

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) and the Bureau of Epidemiology Health Care-Associated Infection Prevention Program likes to emphasize that BPHL has the capability of performing testing and characterization of common antimicrobial-resistant (AR) organisms and organisms that cause health care-associated infections (HAI). We are accepting only submissions of bacteria recognized as carbapenem-resistant organisms (CROs) or carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE).

Testing is performed both on site and through collaboration with external partners such as the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network's Regional Laboratory in Tennessee (ARLN-TN). If the microorganisms tested in your laboratory meet the criteria specified below, please submit isolates to BPHL for further analysis and characterization.

Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacterales (CREs)

Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella aerogenes*, *Klebsiella oxytoca*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter spp.

Please submit isolates that meet at least one of the criteria listed below:

- Positive phenotypic test for carbapenemases (mCIM or CarbaNP)
- Positive molecular assays for the presence of a carbapenemase gene
- Resistant to at least one carbapenem antibiotic (MIC ≥ 4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ for imipenem and meropenem or MIC ≥ 2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ for ertapenem)
- Isolates non-susceptible (intermediate or resistant) to all antibiotics

Genera: *Providencia*, *Proteus*, *Morganella*, *Citrobacter*, *Serratia*

Please submit isolates that meet at least one of the criteria listed below:

- Positive phenotypic test for carbapenemases (mCIM or CarbaNP)
- Positive molecular assays for the presence of a carbapenemase gene
- Resistant to at least one carbapenem antibiotic (*Providencia*, *Proteus*, and *Morganella* are intrinsically resistant to imipenem, so resistance to carbapenem antibiotics other than imipenem must be detected for these genera prior to submission)
- Isolates non-susceptible (intermediate or resistant) to all antibiotics

Do not submit isolates resistant to one carbapenem antibiotic with evidence of negative phenotypic (mCIM or CarbaNP) or molecular assay results.



Carbapenem-Resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA)

Please submit isolates that meet at least one of the criteria listed below:

- Positive phenotypic test for carbapenemases (mCIM or CarbaNP)
- Positive molecular assays for the presence of a carbapenemase gene
- Resistant to at least one carbapenem (imipenem and meropenem with MIC $\geq 8 \mu\text{g/mL}$) **and** non-susceptible (intermediate or resistant with MIC $\geq 16 \mu\text{g/m}$) to cefepime or ceftazidime, or resistant to ceftolozane/tazobactam (MIC $\geq 16/4 \mu\text{g/ml}$)
CRPA isolates must meet both listed criteria to be submitted to BPHL
- Isolates resistant to all antibiotics

Do not submit isolates resistant to one carbapenem antibiotic with evidence of negative phenotypic (mCIM or CarbaNP) or molecular assay results.

Carbapenem-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB)

Please submit isolates that meet at least one of the criteria listed below:

- Resistant to at least one carbapenem (imipenem or meropenem with MIC $\geq 8 \mu\text{g/mL}$)
- Isolates resistant to all antibiotics

Shipping/cancellation criteria:

- isolates must be submitted as pure culture on slant
- two patient identifiers need to be match between the requisition form and the tube
- do not submit duplicate isolates (same source/same bacteria) within a two-month period

BPHL Shipping Information:

Bureau of Public Health Laboratories - Jacksonville
Attention: Jelena Popovic
1217 Pearl Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Submission form: [dh1847_fl-bphl-clinical-lab-test-requisition-form-v2-04.2023.pdf](https://www.floridahealth.gov/forms-reports/dh1847_fl-bphl-clinical-lab-test-requisition-form-v2-04.2023.pdf) ([floridahealth.gov](https://www.floridahealth.gov))

For any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Florida Department of Health HAI Prevention Program at hai_program@flhealth.gov and Florida Department of Health Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) personnel:

Mary Sylva - AR Coordinator, email: Mary.Sylva@flhealth.gov
phone: 904-791-1682

Jelena Popovic - AR Laboratory Scientist, email: Jelena.Popovic@flhealth.gov
phone: 904-791-1715, FAX: 904-791-1603