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Arkansas Department of Health Multi-Drug Resistant Organism (MDRO) Containment Tiers

The [2019 CDC Antibiotic Resistance \(AR\) Threats Report](#)¹ noted that more than 2.8 million illnesses and 35,000 deaths are attributed to infections with MDROs each year. In response, the CDC set forth [Guidance for Public Health to contain novel or targeted MDROs](#)² – organisms considered to be clinically- and/or epidemiologically-concerning. The Arkansas Department of Health (ADH) uses this guidance to conduct a containment response for each identified case to limit transmission of these pathogens as much as possible.

The level of response will vary by the category or Tier (1-4) that each pathogen falls in, which is dependent on several factors such as local epidemiology and clinical concern. These tiers may change over time as local epidemiology and level of concern shift. The ADH maintains flexibility to adjust tiers for specific facilities based on incidence and epidemiology.

In general, ADH will collaborate with healthcare facilities (HCFs) in Arkansas to:

1. Identify affected patients.
2. Ensure infection control measures are promptly implemented to limit spread.
3. Support HCF to determine if transmission is occurring; and if so, conduct colonization screening.
4. Provide education and resources as needed.
5. Coordinate response activities between different healthcare facilities.
6. Characterize MDROs to guide future response and prevention activities.

If you would like to schedule an [Infection Control Assessment and Response \(ICAR\)](#)³ or have any questions, please reach out at ADH.HAI@arkansas.gov.

Arkansas Pathogens by Tier

Tier	Description	Pathogens Included
1	Pathogens/resistance mechanisms never or very rarely detected in the USA (novel MDROs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Novel organism and/or resistance mechanism • Pan-resistant gram-negative organism*
2	Pathogens/resistance mechanisms not commonly detected in Arkansas (targeted MDROs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Candida auris</i> (<i>C. auris</i>) • Carbapenemase-producing Enterobacterales* • Carbapenemase-producing <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> • Carbapenemase-producing <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> • Vancomycin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> • Pan-non-susceptible gram-negative organism
3	Pathogens/resistance mechanisms commonly detected in Arkansas but not endemic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE)** • Carbapenem-resistant <i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i> (CRAB)** • Carbapenem-resistant <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> (CRPA)**
4	Pathogens/resistance mechanisms endemic in Arkansas and/or less epidemiologically concerning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other MDROs not previously listed

*Resistant (R) to all drugs tested at public health laboratories (including CDC)

**ADH offers free mechanism testing for CREs, CRPAs, and CRABs through our State Public Health Laboratory and our Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network

+Common Enterobacterales: *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), *Klebsiella* spp., *Enterobacter* spp., *Citrobacter* spp., *Proteus* spp., *Morganella* spp.

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1. 2019 antibiotic resistance threats report (no date) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: https://www.cdc.gov/antimicrobial-resistance/data-research/threats/?CDC_AAref_Val=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fdrugresistance%2FBiggest-Threats.html (Accessed: 03 December 2024).
2. Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms (MDROs). Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/media/pdfs/Health-Response-Contain-MDRO-H.pdf> (Accessed: 03 December 2024).
3. Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) tool for General Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) across settings Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/php/toolkit/icar.html> (Accessed: 04 December 2024).