This message is intended for all health care providers, particularly hospital-based providers.  
Please distribute as appropriate.

Key Messages

- An mcr-1 producing bacterial isolate has been identified in a Los Angeles County (LAC) resident, the first reported case in California. The mcr-1 gene confers resistance to the antibiotic colistin, one of few “last resort” antibiotics used to treat infections caused by certain multi-drug resistant organisms.
- Hospital-based providers should follow LAC Department of Public Health (DPH) recommendations regarding infection control, testing, and reporting for patients with suspected and confirmed mcr-1 organisms.

Situation:
Los Angeles County has identified the first patient in California with an mcr-1 producing bacterial isolate. The E. coli infection was most likely acquired during international travel and no evidence of spread in the local healthcare community has been identified. Mcr-1 producing bacteria were first identified in the United States in a Pennsylvania patient in May 2016; since then, the mcr-1 gene has been reported in human specimens from five additional states and in animal specimens from two states. The appearance of mcr-1 in Los Angeles serves as a reminder of the importance of infection control measures and antibiotic stewardship.

Actions Requested of Healthcare Facilities and Providers:

- Infection Prevention: Healthcare providers should follow Standard and Contact Precautions for any patient who is suspected to be colonized or infected with mcr-1 positive organisms based on colistin resistance, pending mcr-1 confirmation, OR any patient confirmed to be colonized or infected with mcr-1 positive organisms.
- Laboratory Testing: Isolates with a minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) to colistin of 4 µg/ml or higher should be tested for the presence of mcr-1. If hospital mcr-1 confirmatory testing cannot be performed, contact LAC DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC) at 213-240-7941 to arrange for the isolates to be tested at the LAC Public Health Laboratory.
- Reporting: All mcr-1 positive isolates identified in LAC residents and at LAC health care facilities must be reported within one working day by calling ACDC at 213-240-7941.
For Questions and Reporting:
Los Angeles County DPH Acute Communicable Disease Control Program:
- Weekdays 8:30 am to 5:00 pm: call 213-240-7941
- After hours: call 213-974-1234 and ask for the physician on call.

For Residents of Long Beach and Pasadena:
Long Beach Health and Human Services:
- Weekdays 8:00 am to 5:00 pm: call 562-570-4302
- After hours: call 562-435-6711 and ask for Communicable Disease Officer.

Pasadena Public Health Department:
- Weekdays: call the Communicable Disease Control Program 626-744-6089
- After hours: call 626-744-6043.

Additional Resources:
- LAHAN-June 14th, 2016, “CDC Health Advisory: Alert to U.S. Healthcare Facilities: First \textit{mcr-1} Gene in \textit{E.coli} Bacteria found in a Human in the U.S.”
  www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/laahan
- CDC on \textit{mcr-1} https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/mcr1.html

This Advisory was sent by Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Interim Director, Acute Communicable Disease Control Program, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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