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**LAC DPH Health Advisory:  
First *mcr-1* Producing Bacteria found in  
a Los Angeles County Resident**

January 31, 2017



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*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 *mcr-1* Gene in *E.coli* Bacteria found in a Human in the U.S."  
[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/lahan)
- CDC on *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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