



# State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health



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## Expanded Carbapenemase Testing Services at the Microbial Diseases Laboratory

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In an effort to respond to the emerging problem of antimicrobial-resistant bacterial pathogens, including carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA), the Bacterial Diseases Section and the Molecular Characterization Unit Laboratory at the Microbial Diseases Laboratory (MDL) continues to provide the following services for infection control, surveillance and epidemiologic investigation purposes:

1. Modified Carbapenem Inactivation Method (mCIM) testing for detection of carbapenemase-producing phenotypes
2. Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing for carbapenemase genes *blaKPC*, *blaNDM*, *blaOXA48*, *blaVIM*, and *blaIMP*  
Whole genome sequencing for carbapenemase gene detection and characterization (upon approval by the Healthcare-Associated Infections Program)
3. **New service:** Assistance for submission for expanded antimicrobial susceptibility testing (ExAST) and other services through the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (AR Lab Network)

Updated testing information and guidance are provided in the attached FAQ document.

Additional information on CRE and CRPA is available from the CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program at [Carbapenem-resistant and Carbapenemase-producing Organisms for Public Health and Healthcare Providers website](#).

### Key Contact Information:

**mCIM and Real-time PCR testing: MDL Bacterial Diseases Section (BDS) Laboratory: (510) 412-3903**

Hillary Berman Watson, Reference Bacteriology Unit Supervisor, [Hillary Berman-Watson](#); Peng Zhang, BDS Section Chief, [Peng Zhang](#)

**Whole genome sequencing: MDL Molecular Characterization Unit Laboratory: (510) 412-3940**

Rituparna Mukhopadhyay, Molecular Characterization Unit Supervisor [Rituparna Mukhopadhyay](#); Matthew Sylvester, Molecular Characterization Unit, Research Scientist [Matthew Sylvester](#)

**CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Program: HAI Program: (510) 412-6060 or at [HAIProgram](#)**

