PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
2025 – PAHAN – 815– 12 – 09 - ADV

Pennsylvania Department of Health

Call for Cases: Multistate Cluster of Extensively Drug-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Enterobacter cloacae* complex

DATE:	12/09/2025
TO:	Health Alert Network
FROM:	Debra L. Bogen, M.D., FAAP, Secretary of Health
SUBJECT:	**Call for Cases: Multistate Cluster of Extensively Drug-Resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Enterobacter cloacae* complex**
DISTRIBUTION:	Statewide
LOCATION:	N/A
STREET ADDRESS:	N/A
COUNTY:	N/A
MUNICIPALITY:	N/A
ZIP CODE:	N/A

This transmission is a "Health Advisory" which provides important information for a specific incident or situation; it may not require immediate action.

HOSPITALS: PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL**;** **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS**: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

Summary

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating a multistate cluster of health care-associated, extensively drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Enterobacter cloacae* complex identified through whole genome sequencing (WGS).
- As of November 19, 2025, 28 case-patients have been identified in five states (CO, FL, GA, KY, TX) with collection dates ranging from April 2025 to present.
- Most affected patients had complex wounds and preliminary epidemiologic findings suggest a common source such as a medical product.
- Due to the current multistate cluster, health care facilities and clinical laboratories should report to public health and submit specific *Acinetobacter baumannii* and *Enterobacter cloacae* complex isolates to the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) or the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) Laboratory for additional testing.

  ****Isolate specifications are outlined under Call for Cases in the body of the Advisory****
- If you have questions about this advisory, please contact DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258), PDPH at 215-685-4501, or your local health department.

Background

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating a multistate cluster of health care-associated, extensively drug-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* and Enterobacter cloacae complex identified through whole genome sequencing (WGS). As of November 19, 2025, 28 case-patients have been identified in five states (CO, FL, GA, KY, TX) with collection dates ranging from April 2025 to present. All case-patients had OXA-23-like-producing *A. baumannii* and three case-patients had both NDM-producing *E. cloacae* complex and OXA-23-like-producing *A. baumannii*. Reported specimen sources include wounds, respiratory tract, urine, and blood.

Within each species, isolates are closely related by WGS analysis and are distinct from other U.S. isolates, suggesting a common source such as a medical product. Preliminary epidemiologic findings indicate that most affected case-patients had complex wounds*, such as third-degree burns, diabetic foot ulcers, and decubitus ulcers. There are no known epidemiological links between patients from different states; however, 22 patients are part of two acute care hospital clusters in two states where patients in each cluster had overlapping stays on common units. Investigations to identify common exposures, including medical products and devices, among patients are underway. To date, no Pennsylvania cases have been identified.

Strain-specific details are as follows:

- *A. baumannii* isolates in this cluster harbor the blaOXA-23 carbapenemase gene (or the variant blaOXA-1325) and are Oxford MLST (STOX) 540, an uncommon ST in the United States.
- *E. cloacae* complex isolates in this cluster are ST 270 (Miyoshi-Akiyama scheme) and are identified as *E. hormaechei* by sequence-based taxonomy using average nucleotide identity (ANI) or 16S ribosomal RNA sequencing analysis. Some MALDI ToF MS libraries may also be able to identify *E. cloacae* complex isolates to species level.

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing (AST) of six isolates showed the following results:

- *A. baumannii* isolates (n=3) were susceptible to cefiderocol and sulbactam-durlobactam
- *E. hormaechei* isolates (n=3) were susceptible to amikacin, gentamicin, tigecycline, aztreonam-avibactam, and cefiderocol.

Call for Cases

The Department reminds laboratories and facilities to continue to follow reporting requirements for carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* and carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales.

- Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) are reportable in Allegheny and Philadelphia counties.
- Voluntary reporting of CPO case reports to PA-NEDSS is requested in other Pennsylvania counties.

Due to the current multistate cluster, health care facilities and clinical laboratories should also report to public health and submit any of the following to the Bureau of Laboratories (BOL) (follow instructions within the Directory of Services - Testing Menu) or the Philadelphia Department of Public Health (PDPH) Laboratory for additional testing.

Report and submit isolates from any specimen source with collection dates since April 1, 2025, from acute care hospital patients with burns or other complex wounds. Additionally, isolates should meet one of the following criteria:

- Carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* (if no carbapenemase mechanism testing performed) or OXA-23-producing *A. baumannii* isolates; or
- NDM-producing *E. cloacae* complex or *E. hormaechei* isolates (if identified to species level).
    - If carbapenemase mechanism testing was not performed, report *E. cloacae* complex or *E. hormaechei* isolates (if identified to species level) resistant to all carbapenems and third- and fourth-generation cephalosporins tested.

From any patient, *regardless of their health care exposures or risk factors*, report and submit the following:

- Detection of both carbapenem-resistant *A. baumannii* and NDM-*E. cloacae* complex isolated within a four-week period from the same patient, with collection dates since April 1, 2025.

To report cases or discuss submission of isolates for further characterization, please contact DOH at 877-PA-HEALTH (877-724-3258), PDPH at 215-685-4501, or your local health department.

Individuals interested in receiving future PA-HANs can register at: HAN Notification Registration.

* For the purposes of this investigation, complex wounds are defined as wounds involving more extensive damage that may affect deeper layers of skin and underlying tissue (e.g., subcutaneous tissue, muscle and bone) and requiring specialized wound care (e.g., debridement, surgery, specialized dressings or products).

Categories of Health Alert messages:
Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

This information is current as of December 9, 2025, but may be modified in the future. We will continue to post updated information regarding the most common questions about this subject.