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To All OSPHL Clients,

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) is pleased to announce an enhancement to antimicrobial resistance surveillance for carbapenem-resistant organisms (CRO): Enterobacterales (CRE), *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) and *Acinetobacter* species (CRA).

### **What is changing?**

OSPHL will be implementing antimicrobial susceptibility testing on every CRO isolate. The testing will utilize the Sensititre platform, a broth microdilution method. The drugs tested will include a broad range of drugs used to treat CROs, providing additional information for CRO surveillance. Results of this testing will be provided to submitting laboratories.

OSPHL staff have completed the testing method validation and currently anticipate implementation of the test by February 1, 2024. Due to national supply issues, we are currently unable to announce an official start date.

### **Why this change?**

Carbapenem-resistant organisms present a threat to the public's health. They are challenging to treat because they do not respond to common antibiotics. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has funded OSPHL to offer this testing. Doing so will complement susceptibility testing performed at clinical labs and supports resistance monitoring at the regional level.

### **What do I need to know?**

OSPHL will continue to perform phenotypic and molecular testing for CROs.

OSPHL susceptibility testing has been validated according to CLIA regulatory requirements and results will be provided to submitting laboratories. However, this assay is intended for infection control and public health surveillance purposes only and is not intended for clinical patient management. Each result report will indicate this intention.

To support public health surveillance, selected isolates may continue to be forwarded to the Washington State Public Health Laboratory for additional characterization, the regional Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network Laboratory.

We look forward to providing you with this enhanced level of service. Please contact our laboratory with questions.

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Sincerely,

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