



GOVERNMENT OF GUAM

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIPATTAMENTON SALUT PUPBLEKO YAN SETBISION SUSIAT

GUAM PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY GUIDELINES
ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE LABORATORY NETWORK SPECIMEN SUBMISSION

<p>Case Definition</p>	<p>A microbiological specimen, preserved culture, and isolate in participation for Submission to ARLN must be vetted by the Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) Territorial Epidemiologist (TE) or designee, and will determine eligibility indicated for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Acinetobacter</i> spp. resistant to imipenem, meropenem, or doripenem by standard susceptibility testing methods, with minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of ≥ 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. • <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> resistant to imipenem, meropenem, or doripenem by standard susceptibility testing methods, with MIC of ≥ 8 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ <u>AND</u> non-susceptible or resistant to ceftazidime or cefepime with minimum inhibitory concentrations of >16 $\mu\text{g/mL}$. • <i>Escherichia coli</i>, <i>Klebsiella</i> spp., and <i>Enterobacter</i> spp. that are resistant to imipenem, meropenem, doripenem, or ertapenem by standards susceptibility testing methods, with MICs of ≥ 4 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for doripenem, imipenem, or meropenem or ≥ 2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$ for ertapenem. • <i>Candida</i> spp identification and fungal susceptibility testing for clonal isolates, selected from a single colony, excluding <i>Candida albicans</i>. • Expanded Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for Hard-to-Treat Infections (ExAST) submit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Enterobacterales</i> isolates that test non-susceptible to all beta-lactams, including either ceftazidime-avibactam or meropenem-vaborbactam or have NDM, IVM, or IMP genes confirmed by molecular testing. • For more information on other tests available, https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/public-health-laboratories/arln-lab-test-menu
<p>Specimen Submission Guidelines</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call the Guam DPHSS Territorial Epidemiologist (TE) at 671-689-3942 and/or Guam Public Health Laboratory (GPHL) at 671-300-9080 or 671-300-9082 before collecting and sending microbiological isolate in participation for Submission. <u>NO SPECIMEN WILL BE ACCEPTED AT GPHL WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH THE DPHSS TERRITORIAL EPIDEMIOLOGIST OR DESIGNEE.</u> • Handling and Shipping will be provided by GPHL and/or reference laboratory and must be labeled with patient's name or Identification (ID) number, specimen ID number and date of collection. • Specimens and Isolates for transport to the GPHL must be placed in a sealed biohazard transport bag and placed in a sealed, decontaminated primary sterile container. • Specimens and isolates should be packaged and transported within the facility without attempting to open transport container. Wrap specimens and isolates with absorbent material and place in a sealable specimen biohazard transport bag and into a secondary leak-proof secondary receptacle. • Fill out COMPLETELY the GPHL submission form and the Washington State Department of Health (WA DOH) Laboratory form.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once specimens ready for transport, call the GPHL 671-300-9080 or 671-300-9082 to inform staff of the specimen/isolate delivery. Specimen/isolate will be sent to WA State DOH Laboratory. The DPHSS Territorial Epidemiologist and/or designee will be notified of the result by the GPHL authorized personnel once the final result is received from the reference laboratory.
<p>Specimen Requirements</p>	<p>TRANSPORT CONDITIONS: less than or equal to 72 hours at room/ambient temperature, isolate placed in slant.</p> <p>For more information, please visit https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/public-health-laboratories/arlN-lab-test-menu.</p>
<p>Safety Precautions Infection Control for Collecting and Handling Specimens</p>	<p>Follow established standards compliant with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Bloodborne Pathogen Standard. This includes wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) and adhering to engineered safeguards, for all specimens regardless of whether they are identified as infectious.</p> <p>For specimen collection, recommend to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use full face shield or goggles, mask to cover all of nose and mouth, gloves, fluid resistant or impermeable gowns. Additional PPE may be required in certain situations. Transport specimens to GPHL. Specimens must be placed in a sealed, decontaminated primary container, which is then placed in a sealed biohazard transport bag. <p>All disposable wastes (PPE) used for collection and processing should be autoclaved.</p>
<p>Specimen Transport Guidelines</p>	<p>Transport specimens at room/ambient temperature within 24-72 hours.</p> <p>Deliver specimens to the GPHL no later than 4 PM, Mondays-Fridays.</p>
<p>Rejection Criteria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specimen/isolate sent to the GPHL without prior consultation and notice; Specimen/isolate is non-AR Lab Network approved samples; Specimen/isolate in contaminated media; Specimen/isolate not packed as described in Specimen Submission guidelines; Specimen is not received at room temperature; Unlabeled specimens, incomplete label on specimen (Refer to Specimen Submission Guidelines). Illegible/ incomplete Submission form (e.g., no date of onset, clinical description, etc.) Specimen label does not match the Submission form.
<p>Result Notification</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laboratory reports will be forwarded to the Submitting Facility via fax or secured email. Request for copies of laboratory reports, apart from that stipulated above will not be accepted.

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Attachments:

1. Specimen Submission Form, DPHSS GPHL Form 8/25/2023
2. Specimen/Isolate Submission Form, WA State DOH Lab Form Revised 6/8/2021

References:

<https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-provider-resources/public-health-laboratories/arlN-lab-test-menu>