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** NOTICE: This health alert provides written guidance for health care professionals and others who may need to take action to prevent or control a notifiable condition. It is not intended to provide guidance for the general public.*

Updated Artificial Tear Products Associated with Outbreak of Extensively Drug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa

Action Requested:

- Immediately discontinue using EzriCare Artificial Tears and Delsam Pharma's Artificial Tears pending additional guidance from CDC and FDA.
- Advise patients who used EzriCare Artificial Tears or Delsam Pharma's Artificial Tears to immediately stop using these eye drops and monitor for signs and symptoms of infection. Patients with symptoms of eye infection are advised to seek medical care immediately.
- Place patients infected or colonized with extensively Drug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa (Outbreak strain: VIM-GES-CRPA) and admitted to acute care settings in isolation and use Contact Precautions. For residents of skilled nursing facilities who are infected or colonized with VIM-GES-CRPA, use Enhanced Barrier Precautions if the resident does not have an indication for Contact Precautions.
- Report any carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa (CRPA) from an ocular specimen or VIM-CRPA from any specimen source with collection dates since January 1, 2022, to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (Communicable Disease Reporting Line: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601) or email haioutbreak@cdc.gov for assistance submitting specimens. Ask your clinical laboratories to save these isolates for further characterization at public health laboratories.
- Clinical laboratories that identify any CRPA from an ocular specimen or VIM-CRPA from any specimen source should submit the isolate to the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network for further characterization. Please reach out to Thurston County Public Health and Social Services (Communicable Disease Reporting Line: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601) or email haioutbreak@cdc.gov for assistance submitting isolates.

Background:

On February 3, 2023, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified a second brand of artificial tears Delsam Pharma's Artificial Tears associated with an outbreak of extensively drug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa. CDC is collaborating with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and state and local health departments to investigate a multistate outbreak of an extensively drug-resistant strain of Pseudomonas aeruginosa. The outbreak strain, carbapenem-resistant Pseudomonas

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aeruginosa with Verona integron-mediated metallo- β -lactamase and Guiana extended-spectrum- β -lactamase (VIM-GES-CRPA), had never been reported in the United States prior to this outbreak. The outbreak is associated with multiple types of infections, including eye infections. The investigation to date has identified artificial tears as a common exposure for many patients.

Resources:

Outbreak of Extensively Drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Associated with Artificial Tears (CDC) <https://www.cdc.gov/hai/outbreaks/CRPA-artificial-tears.html>

Centers for Disease Control HAN Alert 485:
https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2023/pdf/CDC_HAN_485.pdf

Information about carbapenem resistant organisms from Washington State Department of Health: <https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/notifiable-conditions/carbapenemresistant-enterobacterales>

Instructions on submitting carbapenem resistant organisms to the Washington State Department of Health Public Health Laboratories:
<https://doh.wa.gov/public-health-healthcare-providers/public-health-laboratories/arln-lab-test-menu>

THANK YOU FOR REPORTING

TO REPORT A NOTIFIABLE CONDITION IN THURSTON COUNTY	
Voice mail for reporting non-immediately reportable conditions (24 hours a day)	Phone: 360-786-5470 Fax: 360-867-2601
Day time immediately reportable conditions – Call detailed information to the 24-hour Notifiable Condition Reporting Line at 360-786-5470. Messages are picked up hourly. If a call back can't wait call 360-867-2500 and ask staff to locate a Communicable Disease staff.	Phone: 360-786-5470
After hours immediately and 24-hour reportable conditions or a public health emergency	Call 1-800-986-9050
No one is available with Thurston County Public Health and condition is immediately notifiable	1-877-539-4344

Communicable Disease Updates are posted online at: <http://bit.ly/CDUpdatePHSS>