

07-11

STATEMENT OF POLICY

Enhancing The Capacity Of Local Health Departments To Monitor, Prevent, And Control Emerging Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms

Policy

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) supports increases in federal funding to state and local health departments (LHDs) to monitor, prevent, and control multi-drug resistant organisms (MDROs.)

Justification

State and local health departments are facing increased incidence of infections caused by MDROs:

- Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* has progressed from being an organism primarily associated with infections acquired in a healthcare setting to one that regularly infects individuals in the community.¹
- While overall tuberculosis (TB) incidence has declined nationally, an increased percentage of multi-drug resistant (MDR) and extensively drug resistant (XDR) TB cases are being reported in foreign-born and other at-risk populations in the United States.²
- Prevalence of fluoroquinolone-resistance in *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* is widespread in the United States, diminishing the options for treatment with oral antibiotics.
- The rates of multi-drug resistance *Salmonella* have increased considerably in recent years.³

¹ Gandara, A. Mota, L., Flores, C., Perez, H., Green, C., Gibbs, S. "Isolation of *Staphylococcus aureus* and Antibiotic-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* from Residential Indoor Bioaerosols." *Environmental Health Perspectives*. December 2006, Vol. 114 Num 12 Retrieved July 1, 2007 from <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=1764131>

² MMWR (2007). Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis – United States, 1993 – 2007. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, MMWR. 2007; 56:250 – 253. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/297/17/1871>

³ World Health Organization (2005). *Drug-resistant Salmonella*. Fact sheet No.139 Revised April 2005 – Retrieved July 1, 2007 from http://72.14.209.104/search?q=cache:7_iQAndV-IYJ:www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs139/en/+Salmonella+multidrug+resistance&hl=en&ct=clnk&cd=1&gl=us



Although most antibiotic-resistant bacteria were originally encountered only in hospitals and other healthcare settings, drug-resistant strains are now commonly occurring in various community settings, such as correctional facilities, sports and recreational facilities, and day care centers.⁴ This growing trend, occurring in a climate of scarce LHD resources, makes it important to enhance the capacity of LHDs as the frontline defense against this threat to the public health, in both healthcare settings and in the community.

Increased federal funding, material, and technical support will allow state and local health departments to: follow national guidelines to prevent and treat infections; use rapid and accurate culture methods for diagnosis (with drug-susceptibility testing); improve case reporting; and expand the capacity for outbreak detection and response.^{5,6} Related capacity-building activities include training, enhancing laboratory capacity, and improving disease surveillance.

Record of Action

Approved by the NACCHO Board of Directors November 4, 2007

⁴ Larson, Elaine. (2007) "Community Factors in the Development of Antibiotic Resistance." *Annual Review of Public Health* (abstract). Vol. 28: 435 – 447. Retrieved July 1, 2007 from <http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.publhealth.28.021406.144020>

⁵ Siegel, J., Rhinehart, E., Jackson, M., Chiarello, L. (2006) Management of Multidrug-Resistant Organisms In Healthcare Settings, 2006. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved July 1, 2007, from <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/pdf/ar/mdroGuideline2006.pdf>

⁶ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, (2007). Extensively Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis – United States, 1993 – 2007. In *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)*, 56:250 – 253. Retrieved July 1, 2007, from <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/297/17/1871>