



Date: April 19, 2016
To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
From: Public Health Services, Epidemiology Program

Multistate Outbreak of Infections Caused by *Elizabethkingia anophelis*

This health advisory notifies CAHAN participants that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is investigating an outbreak of infections due to *Elizabethkingia anophelis* and requests local hospitals and laboratories to report any invasive infections due to *Elizabethkingia* species to the Epidemiology Program.

Background

CDC, the [Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#), the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), and the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) are investigating an outbreak of infections caused by *Elizabethkingia anophelis*, a gram-negative bacterium often found in the environment (water and soil).

As of April 13, 2016, 61 invasive *Elizabethkingia* infections [have been reported](#) in this outbreak, including 20 deaths. All case-patients except two were residents of Wisconsin. Most patients were older than 65 years with serious underlying health conditions. The majority of infections identified to date have been bloodstream infections, but some patients have had *Elizabethkingia* isolated from other sites, such as respiratory systems or joints.

Although *Elizabethkingia* is a common organism in the environment (water and soil), it rarely causes infections. It has not been determined whether the deaths associated with this outbreak were caused by the bacterial infection, the patients' underlying health conditions, or both.

CDC has requested notification of invasive infections (blood or other sterile site) due to any *Elizabethkingia* species diagnosed since January 1, 2016. This is because *Elizabethkingia anophelis* can be misidentified as *E. meningoseptica*. More details on this investigation can be found on the [CDC *Elizabethkingia* outbreak website](#).

Requested Actions

Providers are requested to report any invasive *Elizabethkingia* infections to the County Epidemiology Program at 619-692-8499 during business hours Monday through Friday, or 858-565-5255 after-hours on evenings & weekends. A [confidential morbidity report](#) with available laboratory and clinical records should be faxed to 858-715-6458 (enter "*Elizabethkingia*" under "disease being reported").

Local laboratories are requested to [report](#) any *Elizabethkingia* species from recovered from sterile sites and retain the isolate for submission to the San Diego Public Health Laboratory. Labs are also requested to review available records and report any retrospective cases identified since January 1, 2016.

Providers and clinical laboratory personnel wanting to learn more about *Elizabethkingia* and other rare pathogens can join [MicrobeNet](#), a CDC-curated virtual reference library that helps professionals get the information on more than 2,400 rare and emerging infectious bacteria and fungi.

CAHAN San Diego

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