



DOH 420-440 October 2022

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Template: Risk Assessment for Pathogens of Epidemiological Concern

Attached is a risk assessment template that may be used as by a facility to identify and stratify their pathogens of epidemiological concern (PEC).

Instructions:

Assign a risk score for each PEC, ranging from 0 to 3, in each of the four assessment categories. Total the numbers in all the assessment categories to determine the numerical risk level for each PEC (i.e., add or multiply the score for each section to calculate the numerical risk level). Rank the PECs from highest to lowest. Pathogens with the highest risk score should be the highest priority for developing and updating strategies for preventing transmission.

Additionally, a gap analysis may be used to assess a facility's preparedness for preventing transmission of PEC. Please see the document *PEC Gap Analysis* as an example. Resources, including best practice guidance, for developing and improving strategies to prevent transmission of PEC are in the Resources section below.

Pathogen of Epidemiologic Concern (PEC)	The potential impact of transmission on patient and staff.				The probability of transmission occurring.				The organization's preparedness to prevent transmission.				Identified as a pathogen of epidemiological concern by agency				Total Numerical Risk Level
	High (3)	Med (2)	Low (1)	None (0)	High (3)	Med (2)	Low (1)	None (0)	High (0)	Med (1)	Low (2)	None (3)	LHJ	DOH	CMS	Other	

The Risk Assessment is an ongoing process and should be updated at least annually.

Numerical Risk Level Total:

Zero- Process has been going well.

Low or 1- Processes are initiated and being followed.

Med or 2-The processes in place are working well and the outcomes are improving or sustained.

High or 3- Process needs attention. Training or education may be needed.

Definition of Categories:

What is the potential impact of transmission of patient and staff: Determined by evaluating the potential for 1) patient infection, illness, death, and need for medical intervention; 2) personnel infection, illness, staff shortage, and 3) impact on the organization's ability to function, provide safe patient care, and remain open.

What is the probability of transmission occurring: Determined by evaluating the risk of the pathogen actually being identified and transmission actually occurring, including surveillance data, scope of services provided by the facility, prevalence in the community, prevalence in newly admitted patients, environment of care conditions, patient population, mode of transmission, and virulence of pathogen.

Organization's preparedness to deal with this pathogen: Determined by considering policies and procedures already in place, staff experience, historical response to similar situations, and availability of, PPE, isolation rooms, staff, cleaning and disinfection agents, and equipment

References for Risk Assessment Template:

K. Arias, M. Patrick, K Delahanty and S. Odachowski. " Risk Assessment for Infection Surveillance, Prevention and Control Programs in Ambulatory Healthcare Settings" available online at: [ASC Risk Assessment Template.docx \(live.com\)](#)

[Risk Assessment Example 2.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Resources:

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms" Containment Strategy Guidelines. Updated January 2019, available online at: [Health-Response-Contain-MDRO-H.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Center for Disease Control and Prevention, "Multidrug-resistant organisms (MDRO) Management) Infection Control. Updated February 15, 2017 available online at: [MDRO Management | Guidelines Library | Infection Control | CDC](#)

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, "Guidance for Control of Targeted Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDROs)" Updated February 7, 2020, available online at [MDPHMDROToolkit_FINAL.pdf \(healthcentricadvisors.org\)](#)

Oregon Health Authority, "Oregon Multidrug-Resistant Organism and Clostridioides Difficile Toolkit", updated October 30, 2019, available online at: [MDRO_TOOLKIT.pdf \(oregon.gov\)](#)

Washington State Hospital Association, "Washington State's New Pathogen Law" Law Change: Hospitals Must Adopt Pathogen Policy By January 1, 2023. June 8, 2022. Available online at: [PowerPoint Presentation \(wsha.org\)](#)

Washington State Department of Health, "Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae Reporting and Investigation Guideline" Updated March 2022, available online at: [Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae Reporting and Investigation Guideline \(wa.gov\)](#)