

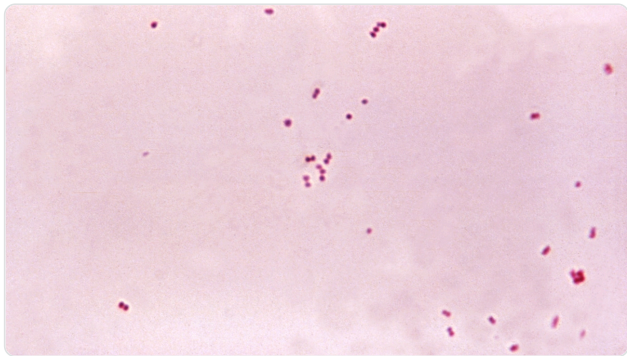


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# About Gram-negative Bacteria

## KEY POINTS

- Gram-negative bacteria can cause serious infections in healthcare settings.
- Infections from these bacteria are becoming increasingly difficult to treat due to antimicrobial resistance.
- To prevent these infections, healthcare providers should follow recommended infection control practices.



## Overview

Gram-negative bacteria cause infections such as [pneumonia](#), bloodstream infections, wound or [surgical site infections](#), and [meningitis](#) in healthcare settings. These infections can be hard to treat since the bacteria causing them can become resistant to common antibiotics. Resistance to most or all antibiotics has also been reported.

## Types

- [Klebsiella](#)
- [Acinetobacter](#)
- [Pseudomonas aeruginosa](#)
- [E. coli](#)
- And more

## Who is at risk

Patients in healthcare settings are at highest risk.

## Prevention

- Patients and caregivers should follow CDC guidelines on [patient safety](#).
- Healthcare providers and facilities should follow [core infection control practices](#) to reduce the risk of spreading these germs to patients.

## Testing

CDC collaborates with laboratories to identify and recommend tests to detect gram-negative bacteria.

### Keep Reading:

[Laboratory Testing for Gram Negative](#)

## Treatment

Gram-negative infections can be difficult to treat. Some types of gram-negative bacteria can [become resistant](#) to multiple drugs, including (and increasingly) antibiotics like carbapenems.

## What CDC is doing

- Providing testing to identify antimicrobial resistance cases, measure resistance and track transmission in a healthcare setting through the [Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network](#).
- Tracking gram-negative bacteria infections through the [Emerging Infections Program](#) and [National Healthcare Safety Network](#).
  - Data is also available on the [AR & Patient Safety Portal](#).
- Working closely with [health departments](#), other federal agencies, healthcare providers and patients to prevent infections caused by gram-negative bacteria and [slow the spread of resistant germs](#).

## Resources

- [Laboratory resources](#)

### SOURCES

**CONTENT SOURCE:**  
[National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases \(NCEZID\)](#)