Testing for CPOs

CPOs (called carbapenemase-producing organisms) are germs that can cause dangerous infections.

- **They are a bacterial infection** that strong drugs (antibiotics) are needed to treat.
- **They spread fast in healthcare settings** and between people with weak immune systems.

Do I Have a CPO?

Healthcare workers can do a lab test to check you for CPOs. They will wear safety gloves and masks during each step of the test:

1. Softly swabbing in your bottom, your throat, OR in any cuts on your body
2. Testing your swab for CPO germs in the lab
3. Checking for a "positive" or "negative" testing result

What Are the Risks of CPOs?
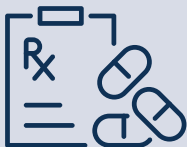
CPOs can cause urgent health problems such as:

→ Pneumonia

→ Urinary tract infections (UTIs)

Washing your hands and keeping good hygiene can protect you from getting a CPO.

Tell your healthcare provider if you've ever had a CPO to help stop the spread.

Why Test for CPOs?

→ If your doctors know you have a CPO infection, **they can treat you with the best antibiotics.**

→ If healthcare workers know who has a CPO, **they can wear gowns or gloves and wash their hands often to stop the spread.**

You can spread CPOs - even if you don't feel sick. This is called "colonization."

Scan to learn more from VDH about CPOs.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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