



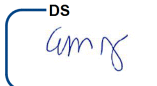
**MONTEREY COUNTY  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
Administration**

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**Memorandum**

Date: April 5, 2023

To: Luis Alejo, Chair, Board of Supervisors, District 1  
Glenn Church, Vice Chair, Board of Supervisors, District 2  
Christopher Lopez, Board of Supervisors, District 3  
Wendy Root Askew, Board of Supervisors, District 4  
Mary Adams, Board of Supervisors, District 5  
Sonia M. De La Rosa, County Administrative Officer

From: Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health 

Subject: Application for California Department of Public Health's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) – Strengthening Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program (SHARP) Grant (\$70,000)

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It is the intent of the County of Monterey Health Department's Public Health Bureau's Public Health Laboratory (PHL) to submit an application for an Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) - Strengthening Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance Program (SHARP) grant from California Department of Public Health for \$70,000 to expand surveillance testing of antimicrobial resistant pathogens in California. Funding is for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

**Background:**

CDC estimates that at least 2.8 million antimicrobial-resistant infections and 35,000 deaths occur in the U.S. each year. In California, 360,000 illnesses and nearly 4,500 deaths are attributed to antimicrobial resistance. The incidence of drug resistant *Candida auris*, a yeast that can cause severe illness in people with weakened immune systems, has been rising worldwide and recently in California. Carbapenemase-producing organisms (CPOs) are bacteria that are resistant to the "last resort" class of antibiotics and are increasingly more common throughout California healthcare settings. These drug-resistant organisms present an urgent and growing threat to public health.

CDC is expanding nationwide laboratory capacity to rapidly detect antimicrobial resistance. ELC-SHARP funding will support the Department's PHL to implement new, specialized testing for *C. auris* and CPOs to detect antimicrobial resistance locally and to inform infection control measures in hospitals and long-term care facilities.

Should the application for funds be approved, the Health Department will return to the Board of Supervisors for approval. Please call me at 755-4526 if you have questions or require additional information.