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NPHL ALERT

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The Nebraska Public Health Laboratory has received an official CDC Health Advisory concerning an outbreak of extensively drug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-GES-CRPA) associated with the use of artificial tears. There are 12 states that have had cases (CA, CO, CT, FL, NJ, NM, NY, NV, TX, UT, WA, WI) with 10 different brands of artificial tears, the majority of which have used EzriCare Artificial Tears.

In this advisory it is recommended to discontinue the use of EzriCare Artificial Tears and to monitor for signs and symptoms of infections. Healthcare providers should screen patients that are being treated for keratitis or endophthalmitis for the use of EzriCare Artificial Tears. Patients that are currently in acute care settings or skilled care and are colonized or infected with multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (VIM-GES-CRPA) should be isolated with Contact Precautions.

Clinical laboratories that encounter an Imipenem or Meropenem resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* should submit the isolate to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory.

To read the article in depth, please follow this link [Health Alert Network \(HAN\) - 00485 | Outbreak of Extensively Drug-resistant Pseudomonas aeruginosa Associated with Artificial Tears \(cdc.gov\)](#)