



Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Information for Horse Owners



What is carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA)?

- Carbapenems are antibiotics that are reserved for resistant infections.
- CRPA is a type of bacteria that can cause severe infections in horses and people and is resistant to carbapenems and other antibiotics, making them challenging to treat.

Where did my horse get this bacteria?

- Horses can acquire CRPA from the environment, such as a contaminated surface in the barn, or from a colonized or infected person or animal.
- *Pseudomonas* grows well in moist environments.
- *Pseudomonas* and CRPA can colonize people and horses without causing illness.
- CRPA infections in horses are rare and most often cause wound, uterine, or sinus infections.

Can CRPA spread to my other horses and family?

- It is possible for CRPA to spread between people and animals, but the risk is believed to be low.
- Immunosuppressed family members should avoid contact with CRPA-infected horses during treatment.
- Everyone can reduce spread by washing hands.
- Anyone concerned about CRPA exposure or illness should consult their healthcare provider.

How can we treat my horse?

- If your horse is infected with CRPA, your veterinarian will determine the best antibiotic treatment.
- Follow your veterinarian's guidance exactly for antibiotic treatment and follow-up care.
- Horses who are colonized with CRPA without showing illness do not need to be treated.

General precautions

- While your horse is being treated, minimize their contact with other animals and people.
- Keep any CRPA-infected wounds covered and wear gloves to change bandages.
- Sinks, soap containers, and buckets can become reservoirs and sources of reinfection; clean well and discard any items that may be contaminated.
- Consult your veterinarian to choose disinfectants effective against *Pseudomonas* and follow manufacturer guidelines (e.g., dilution, storage, contact time).

Where can I find more information?

- Kansas Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
(785) 532-5650 <http://www.ksvdl.org/>
- MU Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory
(573) 882-8367 <https://vmdl.missouri.edu/>
- [CDC: *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*](https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2017/s0615-pseudomonas-aeruginosa.html)