

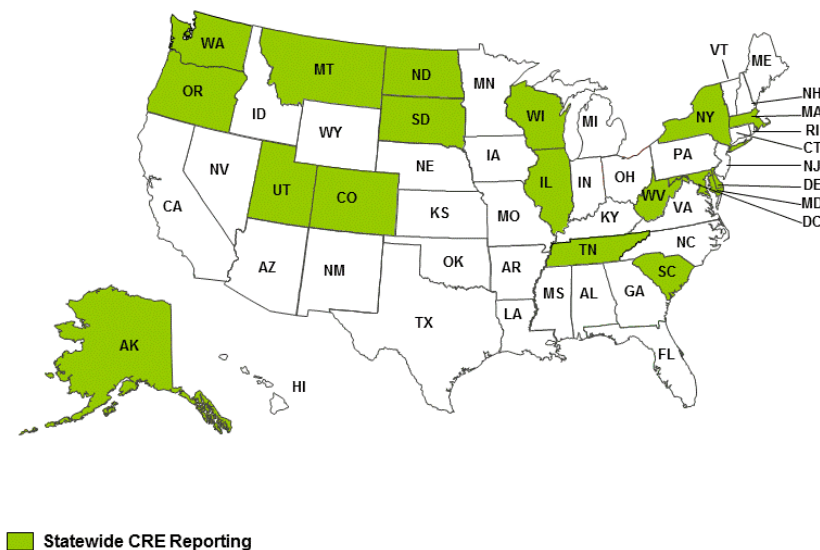
Audrey Haynes  
Secretary  
Kentucky Cabinet For Health and Family Services.

March 24, 2014

Secretary Haynes,

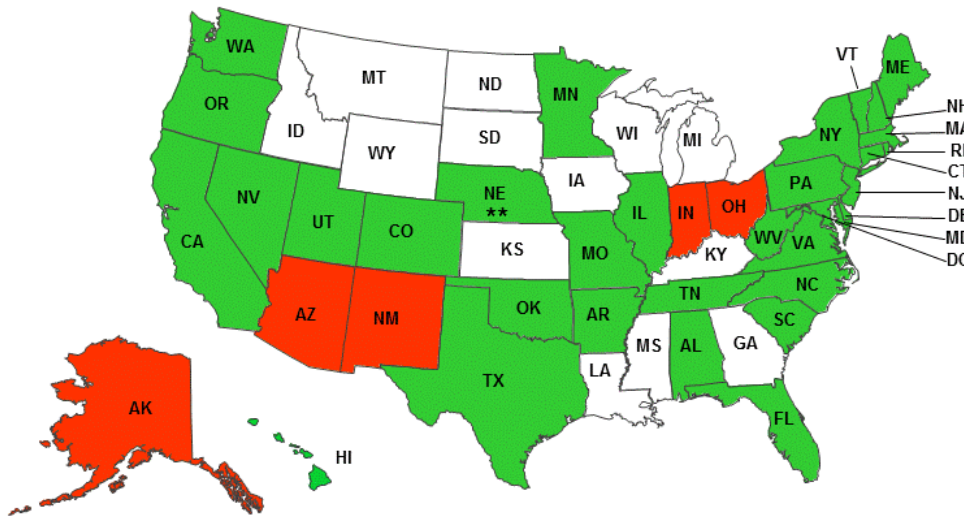
I am writing to encourage you to implement regulations regarding public reporting of Multi-Resistant Drug Organisms and Healthcare Associated Infections. Currently, the KY Department for Public Health is working on a DRAFT Regulation. However, we feel it needs to go further. It needs to clearly spell out which bacteria are reportable. At a minimum, the deadly and virtually untreatable Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) bacteria should be mentioned by name as being mandatorily reportable. If CRE was specifically mentioned, Kentucky would then appear as one of the more progressive states on the Association of Professionals for Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) map below. 17 states now require reporting and more, such as Texas, are being added.

### State CRE Reporting Requirements



I strongly feel the public has the right to know of all outbreaks of infectious agents. This is already being done for cruise ships, restaurants, schools, federal buildings, etc. Why then should these dangerous outbreaks also not be made public for healthcare facilities? Below is the APIC map for States that have public reporting.

## State HAI Reporting Laws



- States with study laws
- Mandates public reporting of infection rates
- \*\* Voluntary

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Kentucky should join these states by requiring all infections outbreaks be made public. At a minimum, outbreaks of CRE should be made public. And a single CRE event should be considered an outbreak. Public Reporting would be an initiative to promote safety and protect the public from infectious agents, so it should fall within the scope of 211.180 where by the Cabinet is given authority to promulgate regulations on the following matters:

*“Detection, prevention, and control of communicable diseases, chronic and degenerative diseases, dental diseases and abnormalities, occupational diseases and health hazards peculiar to industry, home accidents and health hazards, animal diseases which are transmissible to man, and other diseases and health hazards that may be controlled;”*

Certainly, informing the public of dangers is an important aspect of controlling communicable disease. And both CRE and MRSA can easily spread from person to person.

Thank you for this consideration,

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