

# Adding capacity for *Candida* colonization testing at the Texas DSHS laboratory

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## CATEGORY: Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity (ELC)

The Texas Department of State Health Services Laboratory purchased a new instrument to support Healthcare-associated Infection/Antibiotic Resistance Program activities through improved testing capacity for *Candida* colonization.

### The “What”

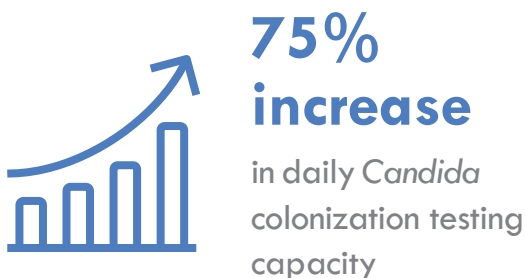
Using funding provided by the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for the Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) Strengthening Healthcare-associated Infection/Antibiotic Resistance Program (HAI/AR) Program Capacity (SHARP) supplement, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Laboratory is working to increase capacity for *Candida* colonization testing. The Lab purchased a BD Max instrument and staff have received training from the vendor. The validation study is in progress. There have been several *C. auris* outbreaks in Texas and the Laboratory currently only has one (1) platform for testing.

### The “So What”

Once the validation is complete, the DSHS Laboratory will be able to test up to 210 specimens per day (1 large or several small facility screenings). This is will be a 75% increase from the previous capacity (120 per day). Having the BD Max will also offer a backup platform in case there is an issue with the current polymerase chain reaction (PCR) equipment.

### The “Now What”

The DSHS Laboratory plans to cross train each molecular biologists on this new platform to provide the best service to the citizens of Texas. They will explore opportunities to expand testing and use this new instrument for mycobacterial testing to identify *M. tuberculosis* complex. Continued ELC funding will provide the Laboratory the ability to maintain, enhance, and expand its testing capacity to inform HAI/AR Program disease surveillance in the state, which will assist in efforts to contain future outbreaks more rapidly.



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