

CRO Breakpoint Implementation Toolkit

ABOUT THE AR ISOLATE BANK



The Antibiotic Resistance (AR) Isolate Bank is a collaborative program between CDC and FDA that provides collections of resistant organisms to help microbiologists, drug and diagnostic manufacturers, and researchers combat AR. Isolates are gathered through outbreak response and surveillance programs, validated and sequenced for testing, and then thoughtfully curated into panels to increase lab efficiencies and public health innovations.

Panels offered through the AR Isolate Bank can assist laboratories update breakpoints. A laboratory can order panels at no cost; they will only be responsible for shipping charges. The names of the panels available for use to update breakpoints for *Enterobacterales*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Acinetobacter baumannii* are:

1) *Enterobacterales* Carbapenem Breakpoint, 2) *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and 3) *Acinetobacter baumannii*

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT ORDERING FROM THE AR ISOLATE BANK

How do I order?

To order a panel, a user must [register for an account](#) and submit their order by adding panels to cart using the AR Isolate Bank website. The requester must complete a set of forms for each order. The forms can be submitted via email to ARbank@cdc.gov or through mail. AR Isolate Bank custodians then review these forms to vet and approve the order.

How do I register for an account?

To register for an account, a user must provide an email and password, their name, and company information. Although new accounts may still be pending approval, the user has the option to place an order at the time of registration. Please use your business email account and phone number to register. Do not use personal accounts or cell phones.

How do I search for a panel?

The [All Isolate Panels page](#) lists all available panels, and enables the user to add a panel to the cart or to view further details. To search for a specific isolate, go to [Isolate Search](#).

How soon should I expect to receive communication after submitting an order via the website?

You will receive a confirmation email from the system when your order request is submitted. Once we have all the requested information from you, we will begin processing the order and shipping the isolates. Please note that our shipping days are Monday-Wednesday (excluding holidays). If you have not received a confirmation email, please contact us at ARbank@cdc.gov.

I just placed an order, what is next?

Follow the prompts on the website or log into your account and go to "Required Forms." Select your order and download the Simple Letter of Agreement and the Biosafety Compliance Agreement. Complete the forms and email the forms to ARbank@cdc.gov or fax to 404.639.1381. Please reference your order number in all communications.

Who should sign the forms?

The Simple Letter of Agreement must be signed by the requester or recipient of the strains. Biosafety Compliance Agreement must be signed by the biosafety official. In the absence of a biosafety official, the laboratory director is eligible to sign.

What is the estimated shipping cost?

For one to two collections, the shipment weight is ~15-20 lbs. (due to dry ice in the shipping container) and they should consult FedEx or other appropriate shipping company for the shipping cost of this weight from CDC's zip code of 30329 to the final destination zip code. If you are unable to get an estimate, please email ARbank@cdc.gov.

My institution does not have a FedEx account. What other options do we have?

UPS pre-paid labels can be used. Further instructions are given once an order is placed.

How are isolates packed and shipped?

Each isolate is contained in a 2 ml cryovial and stored in cryo/freezer boxes (5x5x2") with 81 cell dividers. They are shipped by priority overnight with dry ice. Isolates must be stored in freezer upon arrival, do not let isolates thaw.

Are isolates shipped with any culturing instructions?

Yes, isolates shipped with propagation and storage instructions. Additionally, all storage and propagation information is available on the website.

How soon should I expect to receive my order?

You should receive your order within 10 business days of approval. Orders will be reviewed and approved after all required paperwork has been submitted. Our shipping days are Monday-Wednesday (excluding holidays). We will do our best to communicate any delays in processing the order.

How should the isolates be stored store them?

Please keep isolates frozen at ultralow temperatures (-70°C to -80°C).

If my laboratory is having trouble with the results of an AR Bank isolate, who should we contact?

Contact the AR Bank at ARbank@cdc.gov and provide details of the problem (e.g., repeat testing, etc.)

REFERENCE

Please use the following citations for any publications, protocols, or written materials using AR Bank Isolates:

Full citation:

CDC & FDA Antibiotic Resistance Isolate Bank. Atlanta (GA): CDC. [cited date]

In-text citation for:

- Single isolates (example): *Escherichia coli* AR Bank # 0001.
- Panels (example): ceftazidime/avibactam panel (CDC & FDA AR Isolate Bank).

LEARN MORE

For more information, contact the AR Isolate Bank at:

AR Isolate Bank
1600 Clifton Road
Mail Stop: G-13
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027
ARbank@cdc.gov

