



Surveillance System for the Introduction of Antimicrobial Resistant (AMR)  
Organisms into the U.S. Following International Travel

Research Study

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

We are writing to thank you for participating in our research study of antimicrobial resistance in international travelers, conducted by the Massachusetts General Hospital in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. You have completed your involvement with the study, and your participation has helped advance our understanding of the role that travelers play in the global spread of antimicrobial resistance.

So far, we have found that about 1/3 of travelers return from their international trip colonized with an antimicrobial-resistant organism. Many travelers clear the organism over time, but the organism continues to be present in some individuals.

In closing out your participation in this research, we would like to share our findings from your final sample:

- You are no longer colonized with an antimicrobial-resistant organism.*
- You remain colonized with an antimicrobial-resistant organism.*
- An antimicrobial-resistant organism was cleared from your stool, but you subsequently acquired a different organism— this is likely related to repeat travel and/or use of an antimicrobial medication.*

Being colonized with an antimicrobial-resistant organism means that you have the organism on or in your body, but this organism is not making you sick. Risk of infection for colonized people that are otherwise healthy is extremely low. Most people who get infections from these antimicrobial-resistant organisms are already sick from other medical conditions. You can follow some common-sense practices to prevent spreading these organisms. Wash your hands with soap and water regularly, especially after using the bathroom and before preparing and eating food. Always wash your hands with soap and water when they are visibly dirty. You can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer to clean your hands more frequently throughout the day. Avoid unnecessary use of antimicrobial medications.

As a reminder, a flag has been placed in your medical record indicating you are or have been colonized with an antimicrobial-resistant organism. As a standard precaution, members of your healthcare team will wear gowns and gloves when they enter your room to prevent spreading the organism to other people. The hospital infection control unit determines when/if this flag in your medical record can be removed.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact our study nurse at [eholiver@mgh.harvard.edu](mailto:eholiver@mgh.harvard.edu) or 617-643-3677.

Thank you,

The MGH AMR Team

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