



10 July 2024

**To:**

## **THE NOMINATED CONTACT POINTS FOR THE AST EQA FOR CAMPYLOBACTER IN THE ECDC-FWD NETWORK**

Dear Colleague,

On behalf of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) you are hereby cordially invited to participate in the

### **External Quality Assessment on phenotypic Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing of *Campylobacter* spp. (EQA-AST *Campylobacter* spp.)**

for national public health laboratories for *Campylobacter* in the Food- and Waterborne Diseases and Zoonoses Network (FWD-Net). The EQA will be organized by Statens Serum Institut (SSI). Participation of one Public Health National Reference Laboratory (PHNRL) in each of the EU/EEA, and enlargement countries will be funded by the ECDC.

### **AIM**

The aim of the EQA-AST *Campylobacter* spp. is to support the implementation of the EU protocol for harmonised monitoring of **phenotypic** antimicrobial resistance in human *Campylobacter* isolates, June 2016 (<https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/eu-protocol-harmonised-monitoring-antimicrobial-resistance-human-salmonella-and-0>) and to enable an assessment of the quality of AST data from NRLs that report data to ECDC.

Laboratories are requested to follow the EU protocol to the highest extent possible. In addition, participation in CAMP-EQA9-AST implies that the participating country intends to submit AST data to TESSy, preferably as measured values.

### **TEST STRAINS**

#### **CAMPYLOBACTER**

For *Campylobacter*, species identification of five strains and testing and reporting results for three of the first priority antimicrobials is mandatory for participation (see at the end of this mail). There will also be a possibility to report results for gentamicin. The data should be reported as MIC or zone mm values.

### **REFERENCE STRAINS TO BE USED AS CONTROLS**

The participating laboratories should use the reference strain *Campylobacter jejuni* ATCC 33560 as the control strain and the AST results for the control strain should also be reported.

### **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS AND CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE**

Participants will receive an individual evaluation report of their results and an ECDC certificate of participation. The report will, if appropriate, contain comments and recommendations for



improvement(s). Laboratories that are reporting deviating results can expect to be contacted by the EQA provider so that possible reasons for deviations can be clarified.

All data will be stored and analysed in an EQA-database and the anonymised data will be made publicly available in a report published by ECDC.

**Please respond to this letter latest by the 16<sup>th</sup> of August 2024 using the online form at**

[SURVEY\_LINK]

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

The test strains will be shipped from SSI on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 and the deadline for submission of results is 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2024. When you receive the test strains it is important that you revitalize the strains immediately after arrival.

|                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>16 August 2024</b>    | <b>Deadline to respond to the invitation online</b>           |
| <b>16 September 2024</b> | <b>Shipment of test strains from SSI, Copenhagen, Denmark</b> |
| <b>14 October 2024</b>   | <b>Deadline for online submission of results</b>              |

We kindly ask you to provide the following details in the online form

- The exact shipping address and contact e-mail address
- Specific laboratory and institution/organisation to receive the official certificate

The *Campylobacter* test strains that you receive for the CAMP-EQA9-AST are for internal use for quality assurance purposes in your laboratory and must not be distributed to other laboratories/institutions without permission from the EQA provider, Statens Serum Institut. In the online form you are asked to confirm your acceptance of this.

If you need further information, please contact [ast.eqa@ssi.dk](mailto:ast.eqa@ssi.dk)

Regards,

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## **MANDATORY ANTIMICROBIALS**

### ***Campylobacter***

Ciprofloxacin  
Erythromycin  
Tetracycline

## **OPTIONAL ANTIMICROBIALS**

### ***Campylobacter***

Gentamicin