



NPHL ALERT

January 26, 2023

The CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance Lab Network (ARLN) Team has indicated concern for two cases of antimicrobial resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoea* identified in Massachusetts, one through culture the other from molecular surveillance.

Although both cases have been successfully treated with ceftriaxone, they've since been identified with the *penA60 allele*, which has been associated with ceftriaxone non-susceptible cases. Of particular concern is the susceptibility pattern of the culture tested by the standard Gonococcal Isolate Surveillance Project (GISP) panel, which showed resistance to six of the seven drugs (see Box 1). These are the second and third identified cases in the United States with the *penA60 allele*. See the attached factsheet for additional information to share with your clinical staff ([GC factsheet final 508C.pdf](#)).

Box 1: Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC) by Agar Dilution of the Massachusetts Gonococcal Isolate of Concern

Drug	MIC	Susceptible	Intermediate Resistance
Ceftriaxone	1.0 µg/mL	≤ 0.25 µg/mL	UD [^]
Cefixime	>1.0 µg/mL	≤ 0.25 µg/mL	UD [^]
Azithromycin	2.0 µg/mL	≤ 1.0 µg/mL	UD [^]
Ciprofloxacin	16.0 µg/mL	≤ 0.06 µg/mL	0.12–0.5 µg/mL
Tetracycline	2.0 µg/mL	≤ 0.25 µg/mL	0.5–1.0 µg/mL
Gentamicin	8 µg/mL	UD [^]	UD [^]
Penicillin	32.0 µg/mL	≤ 0.06 µg/mL	0.12–1.0 µg/mL

[^]UD: undefined

Note: Taken from Following email update: CDC's STI Tx Guidelines remains essential. 2023. Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) (CDC).