

# Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria: Emergence of “Superbug” Gene



## **Q. What is this new superbug which is called New Delhi Metallo beta-lactamase (NDM-1)?**

A. An emerging form of antibiotic resistance has been found in some common bacteria. This new form of resistance makes these bacteria harder to treat.

## **Q. Who is at risk of contracting this new antibiotic resistant bacteria?**

A. Currently, individuals who are at greater risk of being exposed and being infected by this antibiotic resistant bacteria are those who have been hospitalized in India or Pakistan.

## **Q. If I've been travelling in India or Pakistan, should I see a doctor as soon as I get home?**

A. It is NOT recommended at this time that you see a doctor, unless you become ill upon returning from your travels.

## **Q. I hear that there has been a case of this new form of bacteria in Canada. Is this true?**

A. Yes, there have been a few cases identified in Canada and each case was successfully treated. At this time there has been no patient to patient transmission.

## **Q. Is there anything I can do to protect myself from these new forms of bacteria?**

A. It is important to remember that the public health risk to Canadians is very low. As with all hospital acquired infections, the Public Health Agency of Canada recommends that Canadians follow routine infection control precautions when visiting a hospital. This includes frequent hand cleaning which will help decrease the risk of patient to patient transmission within hospital settings.

## **Q. What's being done to monitor and protect people from the antibiotic resistant bacteria?**

A. The Public Health Agency of Canada has always recommended that hospitals report incidence of hospital-acquired infections through a surveillance system. This system is designed to identify and track hospital-acquired infections, such as this new superbug. The surveillance system has been on the lookout for this superbug for more than a year. As the Public Health Agency of Canada continues to learn more about the superbug, resources and information will be provided to public health partners and hospitals as needed.

## **References:**

Alberta Health Services, August 12, 2010. <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/2353.asp>  
The Public Health Agency of Canada, Questions and Answers, Emergence of “Superbug” gene, August 12, 2010.  
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division, August 20, 2010