

Nightmare Bacteria

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Nightmare Bacteria Latest News

According to scientists at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), drug-resistant 'nightmare bacteria' driven by the NDM gene are spreading faster than ever in the United States.

About Nightmare Bacteria

- The term "nightmare bacteria" is used to describe **Carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE)**.
- This group of **bacteria**, which includes **Klebsiella pneumoniae** and **Escherichia coli** (E. coli), has developed **resistance to carbapenems** (a class of "last-resort" antibiotics usually reserved for severe infections).
- The CDC calls them "nightmare" because they: Spread **resistance genes easily** to other bacteria. Cause deadly infections in the bloodstream, lungs, or urinary tract.
- Do not respond to most antibiotics, **making treatment difficult**.

Symptoms of Nightmare Bacteria infections

- **Urinary tract infections:** Feeling a burning sensation, a constant urge to urinate or 'cloudy' urine
- **Bloodstream infections:** High fever, rapid heartbeat or very low blood pressure
- **Pneumonia or lung infection:** Cough, shortness of breath or chest pain.

What is the NDM-1 gene?

- NDM-1 (New Delhi Metallo-beta-lactamase-1) is an **enzyme that makes bacteria resistant** to a wide range of **powerful antibiotics**.
- The gene for NDM-1 encodes **beta-lactamase enzymes called carbapenemases**, which makes **bacteria resistant to antibiotics**, including carbapenem, which is used to treat other superbugs such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA).

Source: **FE**

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/nightmare-bacteria/>

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