



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
State Public Health Laboratory
5455 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave.
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July 3, 2014

Dear Clinical Laboratorians,

For decades, reporting of certain health conditions and diseases has been mandated to the Alaska Division of Public Health. These reports have allowed the Division to rapidly investigate and institute control measures to prevent additional morbidity and mortality, and to track disease trends statewide.

A new provision of the Conditions Reportable regulations (effective 12/29/2013) is to require submission of certain isolates or original source material to the Alaska State Public Health Laboratory (ASPHL) **7 AAC 27.007(e)**. The purpose for this is to ensure that additional molecular characterization of isolates can be performed, such as pulsed-field gel electrophoresis or antibiotic resistance testing. These assays can assist in detection of an outbreak or more precise monitoring of a specific pathogen strain. **A complete listing of organisms required for submission is attached.**

With the advent of culture independent tests for diagnosis of pathogens, such as *Campylobacter*, we understand that clinical laboratories desiring to reduce turnaround time may decide to utilize them. We are writing to ensure that all laboratories submit an isolate or aliquot of the original specimen to ASPHL whenever a culture independent test for *Campylobacter* (or any other specified pathogen) is positive.

We are also writing to understand the extent to which laboratories are using these culture independent tests for the diagnosis of *Campylobacter* or other Enteric pathogens. If this is one of the tests your laboratory is now performing, please reply to either of the email addresses listed below.

We appreciate your efforts and thank you in advance for your assistance. Please address any questions you may have to either Dr. Jennifer Eastman or Catherine Xavier.

Thank you,

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Eastman in black ink.

Jennifer L. Eastman, Ph.D.
Clinical Microbiology Laboratory Manager
jennifer.eastman@alaska.gov

Handwritten signature of Catherine Xavier in black ink.

Catherine Xavier
Public Health Microbiologist II
catherine.xavier@alaska.gov

Submission of Isolates or Source Material – Laboratories

Per 7 AAC 27.007(e):

A laboratory that confirms one of the pathogens in the following list shall submit isolates or aliquots of original specimens to the ASPHL:

Bacillus anthracis

Brucella species

Burkholderia mallei

Burkholderia pseudomallei

Campylobacter species;

Clostridium botulinum, the laboratory shall provide a sample of the organism and, if available, a serum, stool, emesis, food, or environmental sample;

Clostridium tetani

Corynebacterium diphtheria

Escherichia coli, shiga-like toxin producing

Francisella tularensis

Haemophilus ducreyi

Haemophilus influenzae from normally sterile body fluid or site;

Listeria monocytogenes

Mycobacterium leprae

Mycobacterium tuberculosis

Neisseria gonorrhoeae

Neisseria meningitidis from normally sterile body fluid or site

Salmonella species

Shigella species

Streptococcus agalactiae from normally sterile body fluid or site

Streptococcus pneumoniae from normally sterile body fluid or site

Streptococcus pyogenes from normally sterile body fluid or site

Vibrio species

Yersinia species

Additionally, if the Division of Public Health suspects or determines the existence of a situation of public health importance, including an unusual disease or outbreak, a laboratory shall submit clinical material upon request.