

Montana Laboratory Sentinel Newsletter

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284, www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

September 5, 2017

Surveillance for Carbapenem Resistance

CDC's Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative agreement (ELC) has requested Public Health Laboratories to collect, confirm, and characterize carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) isolates. These activities will help to identify isolates that produce a carbapenemase and classify the kind of carbapenemase resistance present. In order to help conduct this surveillance effort, **we need your help!** Please review the document, "Guidance for Implementation of CRE and CRPA testing at Montana Public Health Laboratory," found on our [website](#) under *What's New*. This document identifies the isolates of interest, as well as collection strategies, testing provided, and reporting practices.

Montana Public Health Laboratory to Discontinue Virology Culture Services Effective October 1, 2017

The Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) has decided to discontinue Virology Culture beginning October 1, 2017. Conventional viral culture has long been the mainstay for growth and identification of viruses from clinical specimens. However, the isolation of viruses in culture is slow, time consuming, and labor intensive and can lack the sensitivity needed to have an appreciable impact on clinical decision-making. In contrast, the rapid advancement of molecular methods, such as PCR, has dampened the role of viral culture, by providing early and accurate diagnostic information that can have a significant impact on patient care and treatment.

Due to these molecular advances, the MTPHL has experienced a significant decline in requests for viral culture. The decline in requests has made maintaining this capability very difficult to support.

Although viral culture will not be available, the MTPHL has molecular testing capabilities that will detect many viruses of public health significance. These include:

- Influenza A Virus and subtypes
- Influenza B Virus and genotypes
- Influenza Viruses A/H5 and A/H7
- MERSCov
- Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV)
- Measles Virus
- Mumps Virus
- Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) 1&2
- Adenovirus
- Enterovirus (including EV-D68)
- Chlamydia

We sincerely regret any inconvenience that this change may cause you.

Please contact the Montana Public Health Laboratory at 1-800-821-7284 if you would like to discuss our viral molecular testing services or for any additional questions.