

MAY 24, 2019



## Montana Laboratory Sentinel

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284, [www.lab.hhs.mt.gov](http://www.lab.hhs.mt.gov)

### New!! Specimen Transport Bags

For those facilities serviced by the State courier, you will be receiving a package of large customized specimen transport bags. We are asking that you consolidate all of your specimens into one of these bags on a daily basis for transport to MTPHL. This new process should alleviate the courier from picking up multiple single specimen transport bags and is an effort to increase efficiency of transit, security and reconciliation of specimens.

You will use one large transport bag for ambient specimens, as well as separate transport bag for refrigerated specimens or you can always use a cooler for transport. Each large transport bag and/or cooler should also include a **patient manifest**. The manifest should be signed to verify the specimens are in the bag prior to transport. Once received, we will again reconcile the manifest to specimens received.

**NOTE:** If you have another facility dropping off specimens at your site for courier pickup, that facility is responsible for providing their own manifest along with their specimen(s). All specimens being picked up by the State courier from your facility, including specimens from off-site facilities, should be placed in one of the large transport bags (ambient or refrigerated).



We are going to personally call each facility serviced by the courier route in the next couple of weeks to provide additional information and answer any questions. If you have questions or concerns in the meantime, please contact the MTPHL at 406-444-3444 or 800-821-7284

## New!! Patient Manifests

On June 1, 2019, the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) is implementing a process that will require clinical laboratories to include a daily specimen manifest with all submissions. The use of daily manifests will allow us to better track all specimens from the time they leave your location to receipt at MTPHL. Each manifest will be reconciled with the actual specimens received and if any discrepancy is noted, you will be alerted immediately. All manifest will be kept for a minimum of 30 days.

If you are not currently able to produce your own patient manifest for submission of specimens to MTPHL, please see our web site's "What's New" page for a generic manifest template.

**NOTE:** It is acceptable to place a patient label on the generic form, instead of hand writing the information, as long as all pertinent information is available, and the form is initialed.

Please call the MTPHL with any questions or concerns 406-444-3444 or 800-821-7284

## Update: Surveillance Isolates

As of June 1, 2019, the Montana Public Health Laboratory will **no longer be providing surveillance testing for MRSA, VRE or ESBL** isolates. You may request these tests for confirmatory purposes, but the tests will no longer be fee-waived. We have been performing these surveillance tests as part of our State surveillance efforts and as part of the Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network, but these isolates are no longer a key interest unless associated with an outbreak. We will soon be updating our test requisition to reflect this change.

We are however still very interested in suspect Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacteriaceae* (CRE) and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA) isolates, in addition to *Candida* isolates, specifically *Candida* spp. that are not *Candida albicans*, from sterile sites or sites deemed clinically significant, or *Candida* isolates that are unable to be further identified.

Remember Those Who Served



All Gave Some, Some Gave All