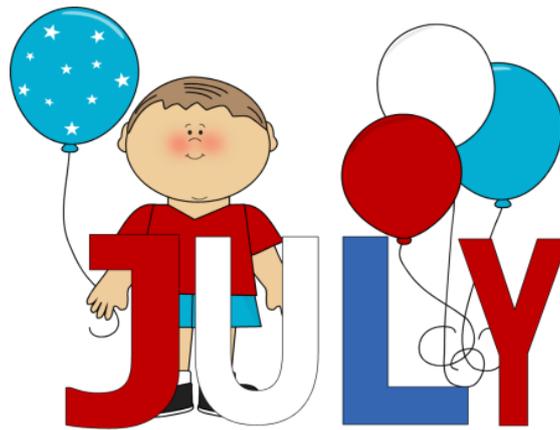


JULY 16, 2019



Montana Laboratory Sentinel

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

Laboratory Requisitions

In order to keep an accurate record for each patient in our laboratory software, it is vital that we are able to uniquely identify patients, and to match new orders for a patient to an existing patient record. We have traditionally matched patients to existing records using the patient's name, gender and date of birth. However; this information alone is not 100% reliable. Additionally, patient's names can change. For these reasons, we added the submitter's patient ID# as a criteria for matching patient records. Therefore, it is now more important than ever to be conscientious entering patient ID numbers (if available) on the Montana Public Health Laboratory testing requisitions.

In the Patient Information section on the requisition, there is a field for a Patient ID#. This field needs to be filled out with a **unique** patient ID#, such as a medical record number. We use this number as an identifier to match patients, and if you give us different numbers each time, it results in multiple patient accounts in our system that need to be merged together.

Please determine at your facility which unique ID# you will use. The unique ID# should **remain the same** for this patient and should always be sent in the **same format** (i.e., don't use a prefix one time and not the next – BCH123456 vs. 123456). Also, do not use an identifier that can be used for multiple patients.

If you want to include your sample ID/Accession number or another non-unique number for your identification purposes, put it **AFTER** the patient ID# with a dash in between. For example, ABC123456-123. This way you will see your 'submitter ID' on the report as it appears on the requisition, but we will only use the characters before the dash for our matching purposes.

If your patient ID includes dashes (i.e., SSN) do not use them when filling out the requisition. Also, if you do not have a unique patient identifiers at your facility, you may leave this field blank.

Thank you for your cooperation in ensuring we are identifying patients correctly and avoiding duplicates. Please give MTPHL a call if you have any questions: 800-821-7284 or 406-444-3444 option 2.

Patient Manifests and Sample Transport!!

Thank you to everyone who has been submitting manifests with their patients specimens since we have started this program.

Just a reminder that a complete manifest accompanies all specimens you intend for pick up on a given day. Otherwise we have no way of knowing if a sample is missing or an entire package wasn't received. Also, if you are mailing samples, consider faxing a copy of the manifest so we can anticipate the package's arrival. Also, please make sure to seal the bags before giving them to the courier. We have had problems with samples falling out, which makes them difficult for us to sort.

Thank you for helping us to serve you better, and please contact us with any questions or concerns.

Help Stop the Spread: *Candida auris*

Candida is one of the most common causes of healthcare-associated bloodstream infections in the United States and antifungal drug resistance in *Candida* is increasing. There are new and emerging species, like *Candida auris*, which can spread in healthcare settings and cause outbreaks. *C. auris* has been reported in more than 20 countries, including the United States.

The Montana Public Health Laboratory, in conjunction with CDC's Antimicrobial Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN), is set to detect resistant organisms that pose a public health threat and interested in receiving these isolates for further surveillance testing. This request includes all *Candida* species **other than** *C. albicans* from any source, especially invasive sites.

For more information on resistant organisms of interest click [here](#).

In addition, CDC recommends screening for *Candida auris* colonization for patients who are considered high risk. This includes:

- **Close healthcare contacts** of patients with newly identified *C. auris* infection or colonization
- Patients who have had an **overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside the United States** in the previous one year, especially if in a country with documented *C. auris*

For more information on how and who to screen, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-screening.html>

