



November 16, 2018

Dear OSPHL Clients and Public Health  
Partners,

We are sending this letter to notify you that the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) is discontinuing several laboratory tests on January 1, 2019. Please forward this notice to your colleagues as needed.

The OSPHL staff recently conducted a time study to determine the actual cost of testing services and worked with the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention Section (ACDP) to prioritize laboratory tests by public health importance. ACDP and OSPHL included the Conference of Local Health Officials Communicable Disease Subcommittee (CLHO-CD) in discussions about public health laboratory testing priorities.

As a result of our time study and prioritization discussions, OSPHL will discontinue the tests listed below on January 1, 2019. If the testing to be discontinued is still needed, please direct specimens to an alternative reference laboratory.

The following tests will be discontinued and are available in private sector reference laboratories:

- *Brucella* antibody
- *Cryptosporidium/Cyclospora* screening
- Parvovirus B19 IgG and IgM antibody
- Rubella IgG antibody
- Trioplex PCR\* (for Chikungunya, Dengue, and Zika viruses)
- Varicella IgG antibody
- Virus isolation and culture
- Zika virus IgM antibody\*

\*Local Public Health Authorities do not need to approve testing of specimens for Zika, Chikungunya, or Dengue viruses sent to private sector reference laboratories.

The following tests will be discontinued at OSPHL but is available at CDC:

- Adenovirus 14 subtyping
- *H. ducreyi* culture (chancroid)

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The following test is being discontinued and will be henceforth performed as needed by the Oregon State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory:

- Rabies virus testing of mammals involving human exposures

Mammalian bites of humans are reportable to the Local Public Health Authority within one working day. ACDP will pay for rabies testing after an animal has bitten a human if ACDP epidemiologists identify potential for rabies transmission.

The OSPHL and ACDP will be updating all related guidance documents over the next several weeks. You will see notices about these updates as implementation proceeds.

Thank you for your continued collaboration with the OSPHL and ACDP. We look forward to continuing to provide you with high quality laboratory testing to support needed public health services to your communities.

Sincerely,

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