



May 3, 2022

To All OSPHL Clients,

Last week the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) implemented an immediate change to *Campylobacter* spp. identification. The message below provides complete details for the short-term and long-term identification of *Campylobacter* spp. with OSPHL. These changes will not affect identification and monitoring of outbreaks. Please share this information with colleagues who may need this information.

What is changing now?

OSPHL will continue to identify *Campylobacter jejuni* using traditional biochemical methods.

Isolates not identified as *C. jejuni* will be forwarded to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for further identification. If an isolate you have submitted is forwarded to CDC, it will be indicated on your result report and OSPHL will forward the CDC results to you when available.

What is changing later?

OSPHL will transition from traditional biochemical and PCR-based identification methods to whole-genome sequencing (WGS)-based, Average Nucleotide Identity (ANI) calculation for *Campylobacter* spp. The General Microbiology team is working through the validation and implementation. More information will be distributed closer to the implementation date.

Why these changes?

OSPHL has been planning to discontinue traditional biochemical and PCR-based identification methods to WGS ANI calculation and working on the validation and implementation to better support public health surveillance. The PCR method for *Campylobacter* spp. identification is not meeting acceptable performance specifications and is no longer supported by the manufacturer. Rather than validate the PCR method on a different PCR platform, the OSPHL will validate speciation of *Campylobacter* by WGS.

Please contact Karim Morey, Lead Microbiologist, with questions at 503-693-4142 or karim.e.morey@dhsosha.state.or.us.

Sincerely,

John L. Fontana, PhD, (HCLD) ABB
Director, OSPHL