

March 4, 2025

To All OSPHL Communicable Disease Services Clients,

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) recently completed the comprehensive review of our Lab Test Menu required by our accrediting agency every two years.

Beginning April 1, 2025, key changes will be published that will affect the specimens that will be accepted for testing at OSPHL. The scientific laboratory environment is dynamic. These changes reflect recent research and changes made by instrument and test kit manufacturers. Additional key information such as updated turnaround times for test results will also be published.

Substantive Lab Test Menu changes are detailed in the attachment to this message. Please share this notice with all staff interacting with OSPHL specimen submission and result receipt.

Please ensure your organization's procedures align with the changes to OSPHL's Lab Test Menu.

Sincerely,

Patrick Luedtke, MD, MPH  
Medical Director, OSPHL

Matthew Burns, MSc  
General Microbiology Manager, OSPHL

Ayodele Ojebode, MPH, MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup>  
Manager, Virology/Immunology

# Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

Lab Test Menu Location: [www.healthoregon.org/labtests](http://www.healthoregon.org/labtests)

The following substantive changes have already been made. Various, less substantive changes have also been posted publicly.

- New Test Menu Page: [Candida spp. Identification and Susceptibility Testing \(excluding C. albicans\)](#)
- Mycobacterium Order Choices:
  - o Attachment detailing comprehensive specimen collection and submission instructions will be updated. Most changes are for clarity and to align with current processes.
  - o Applies to the following tests: [Mycobacterium - AFB PCR: Isolate Identification](#); [Mycobacterium - AFB Smear and Culture](#); [Mycobacterium - M. tuberculosis Complex Susceptibility Testing](#)

**Please review the following Lab Test Menu changes beginning April 1, 2025. Links below will not reflect the changes detailed until this date.**

Specimens Submitted in CaryBlair Transport Media – Standardizing all such specimen submission criteria to require:

- Stool must be transferred into Cary Blair Transport Media within two hours of collection.
- Store and transport refrigerated for delivery within 4 calendar days of collection.
- Applies to the following tests: [BioFire Gastrointestinal Panel](#), [Enteric Pathogen Culture](#), [Norovirus, Real-Time PCR](#), and [STEC Culture](#)

Comprehensive Changes:

- [Norovirus, Real-Time RT-PCR](#) (formerly Viral Gastroenteritis Panel)
  - o Review this page as new due to various changes.
  - o OSPHL no longer automatically reflexes norovirus-negative specimens to additional gastroenteritis pathogens. Additional testing remains available upon request.

- [Orthopox Virus Real-Time PCR](#)
  - Changes are primarily to clarify notification, approvals, and testing process if a patient has travel history to a country with known Clade I transmission.
- [Varicella Zoster Virus \(VZV\), Real-Time PCR](#)
  - Review this page as new. Comprehensive changes to specimen collection, handling, and transport.

#### Laboratory Response Network Pathogens – Standardizing Time to Reporting:

- Preliminary report will be released within 2 working days after receipt of specimen. Final report will be released within 7 working days after receipt of specimen.
- Applies to the following tests: [Bacillus anthracis Identification](#); [Brucella spp. Identification](#); [Burkholderia spp. Identification](#); [Francisella tularensis, culture and confirm](#); [Yersinia pestis, culture and confirm](#)

#### Other Changes:

- [Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms \(CRO\) Testing](#):
  - Collection: Clarifying pure isolates are to be submitted; Avoid multiple subcultures of the originally recovered organism.
  - Rejection Criteria: Subsequent samples of the same organism from the same source, submitted from the same patient and facility within 30 days.
- [Corynebacterium diphtheriae, Culture or Confirm](#): Adding clarity regarding submission of swab versus culture
- [STEC Culture](#) – Adds clarity about submission of specimens in GN Broth (in addition to the above change to submission in CaryBlair Transport Media).