

August 26, 2026

Dear OSPHL Clients and Partners,

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) General Microbiology team is excited to announce the implementation of MALDI-TOF mass spectrometry for organism identification. We expect implementation to begin sometime in September 2026.

A list of affected tests is provided below. Please share this information with your colleagues who order or interpret these tests.

When will the method be added?

Implementation of MALDI-TOF is expected to begin in September. Individual test orders using MALDI-TOF will be phased in over time and incorporated into each algorithm when all elements of the process are ready. OSPHL will notify clients and partners when the MALDI-TOF method is added to a test order.

What test orders will be affected?

For some test orders, MALDI-TOF will be added to existing testing algorithms. For others, MALDI-TOF will replace current identification methods. The implementation notice for each test order will describe the specific changes to the testing algorithms.

OSPHL plans to add MALDI-TOF to the following test order algorithms:

- [Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms](#), including CRE and CRPA
- *Acinetobacter* species confirmation
- [Corynebacterium diphtheriae](#) culture or confirmation
- [Haemophilus influenzae serotyping](#)
- [Listeria monocytogenes culture and confirmation](#) (from non-sterile sources only)
- [Neisseria meningitidis serogrouping](#)

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- *Salmonella* [culture](#) and [species ID](#)
- *Yersinia* [culture](#) and [species ID](#)

By adding MALDI-TOF, OSPHL anticipates the ability to resume or add identification for *Cronobacter* species.

What is not changing?

Clients should continue to order tests from OSPHL using the existing test orders.

Clients should also continue to order tests using their current process, whether using electronic orders or paper forms.

What is MALDI-TOF and how does it work?

MALDI-TOF stands for Matrix-Assisted Laser Desorption Ionization-Time of Flight mass spectrometry. For more information about how MALDI-TOF works, you can view a [video describing the MALDI-TOF testing process](#)*.

Who should I contact with questions?

OSPHL will send more detailed information about implementation of MALDI-TOF for each test order as the project continues. Please contact the OSPHL General Microbiology Section with questions at 503-693-4100.

Sincerely,

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Clinical Lab Director, OSPHL

Matthew Burns, MSc
General Microbiology Manager, OSPHL

*OSPHL has located this video to help clients and partners better understand MALDI-TOF. Sharing this video is not an endorsement of the video owner's overall content.

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