



February 21, 2024

To All OSPHL Microbiology Testing Clients,

On February 26th, 2024, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) will resume specimen testing in their Biosafety Level 3 (BSL-3) suite. This concludes two months of planned maintenance and equipment upgrades, during which time, *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) and select agent rule-out specimens have been forwarded to the Washington Public Health Laboratories (WAPHL).

M. tuberculosis (MTB) Specimen Testing

- Raw sputum/primary specimens received by the OSPHL on or after February 26th will be tested at OSPHL.
- Isolates for PCR and susceptibility received by the OSPHL on or after March 4th will be tested at OSPHL.
- Any raw sputum/primary specimens received prior to February 26th will be tested at WAPHL and will continue there until completion. Submitters may receive results for culture including reflex susceptibility testing up to 9 weeks from specimen receipt at WAPHL.

Results for testing performed by WAPHL will be sent to OSPHL and forwarded to submitting facilities. Results will be delivered through existing mechanisms (fax, electronic EHR interface, Copia, and ELR).

Select Agent Rule-Out Specimens

As of February 26th, please resume submitting rule-out specimens directly to the OSPHL for testing.

As a reminder, contact the Acute and Communicable Disease Prevention section at 971-673-1111 or your Local Public Health Authority to notify of the case and the OSPHL at 503-693-4100 before submitting specimens for testing.

We are thankful for your flexibility during this project, and to the WAPHL team for ensuring Oregon patients received the critical testing needed!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team:

- Laboratory Manager: Marisa Frieder, General Microbiology Section Manager – 503-693-4139 or marisa.d.frieder@oha.oregon.gov
- Laboratory Operational: Macey Henning, LRN Coordinator – 503-693-4123 or macey.henning@oha.oregon.gov

Sincerely,

Akiko Saito
Business Director