



May 29, 2024

To All OSPHL Communicable Disease Services Clients,

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) has a series of important updates and reminders to share with you. Please review the information below and share with your colleagues who need this information.

OSPHL Specimen Submission Policy Updated

The OSPHL policy regarding acceptable specimen submission was recently updated and posted to our website at <http://bit.ly/SpecimenCriteria> (case sensitive link). This policy describes the conditions under which any specimen should be submitted to OSPHL for testing in accordance with OSPHL's accreditation and procedures.

A section has been added to the policy about patient identification. The new instructions are intended to ensure specimens are collected from the correct patient and labeled with the correct patient's identifiers (Section A.4). Additional changes have been made throughout.

Please review the policy to ensure your organization's procedures for specimen collection and submission align with these requirements.

Request for Clinical Laboratories: Submit Influenza Specimens

Per Oregon Administrative Rule, Oregon Clinical Laboratories are required to submit to OSPHL any specimen exhibiting atypical features (e.g., un-subtypeable) on influenza assays for further characterization. At this time, OHA requests laboratories be particularly vigilant for these specimens and submit them timely.

OSPHL to Host Open Office Hours for Communicable Disease Testing Services

New to working with OSPHL or have some new questions? We're here for you! Join OSPHL Office Hours.

When: First Tuesday of Each Month

2024 Dates: June 4, July 2, Aug. 6, Sept. 3, Oct. 1, Nov. 5, Dec. 3

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm

[Register for Zoom Office Hours](#)¹

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¹ <https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscughqzopGEoUpu3on2QtFOvJHsV0PR8>

Questions? Check the Lab Test Menu!

Do you have questions about specimen collection, storage, or transportation? Most of your answers can be found on OSPHL's Lab Test Menu for each test offered by our laboratory! Visit www.healthoregon.org/labtests for answers to these questions and more.

Courier Service Reminders

For OSPHL clients using our contracted courier services through DASH Delivery and STAT Courier, we have some important reminders for you to implement:

1. As temperatures rise, please use **more ice packs** in your shipments to ensure interior temperatures remain cold.
You can order more ice packs from OSPHL using our Stockroom Order Request form posted at www.bitly.com/phl-forms.
2. When you receive empty containers from OSPHL:
 - a. Remove the blue tape over the closure.
 - b. Open the container to check for any notices or supplies.
 - c. Take out the ice packs and place them in a freezer.
 - d. Store the transport container open to prevent mold, mildew, and foul odor.