

September 11, 2024

Dear OSPHL Clients,

Beginning Friday, September 13, 2024, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) will suspend species-level identification of *Campylobacter* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, or *Vibrio* spp. for up to eight weeks.

During this time, OSPHL will be evaluating a new data analysis tool to identify the species of these pathogens. Final results will be available after confirmation that the performance of the analysis performs correctly. This activity and reporting delay is to ensure the laboratory produces accurate test results for clinical care. During the evaluation, preliminary result reports will include a comment describing the delay. An example preliminary result report is attached to this message.

What is not changing?

OSPHL will continue to report genus verification on preliminary result reports using biochemical methods for *Campylobacter* spp., *Listeria* spp., or *Vibrio* spp.

There is no change for reporting of *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, or *Shigella* during this time.

What is changing?

OSPHL and public health laboratories nationwide use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) computing environment to analyze whole genome sequencing data to identify the specific species for *Campylobacter* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, and *Vibrio* spp. CDC has announced a rapid change from the current computing environment, Bionumerics 7.6, to PulseNet 2.0. The PulseNet 2.0 environment will be a more efficient platform for data analysis and provide better tools for outbreak detection and surveillance.

To provide specific results more quickly during the transition period, OSPHL will add preliminary patient-specific reports for *Campylobacter jejuni* to the laboratory's reporting protocol. Final reports will be released on the same timeline as specified above.

Why is there a gap in result reporting?

CDC has announced the change to the computing environments with little time for evaluation of PulseNet 2.0. States may not use the Bionumerics tool after September 13. However, there was not sufficient notice provided to verify accuracy of the PulseNet 2.0 environment prior to the date of the change. OSPHL staff will evaluate the new environment as quickly as is practicable.

Public Health Surveillance for Outbreaks and Clusters

While clinical result reporting of species identification will be delayed pending evaluation of the new computing environment, cluster and outbreak detection will continue as part of the laboratory's continuous surveillance activities.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during transition. We anticipate it will be a better analysis tool once implemented. Our team will keep you updated on the implementation and looks forward to providing you with results when the evaluation is complete.

Please contact the OSPHL team with questions:

- Operational/Specimen Submission: Client Services Coordinator – Sarah King – sarah.m.king@oha.oregon.gov – 503-693-4124
- Laboratory Technical: General Microbiology Testing Lead – Karim Morey – karim.e.morey@oha.oregon.gov – 503-693-4100

Sincerely,

Patrick Luedtke, MD, MPH
Laboratory Medical Director

Akiko Saito, MPH, MPA
Business Director & Interim
General Microbiology Manager

Attachment: Example Preliminary Result Report with Descriptive Comment

Patient name:	PULSENET, VIBRIO CULTURE (M)	LabCorp - Legacy Microbiology
Chart Number:		1225 NE 2nd Ave
Date of Birth:	1/5/1969	Portland, OR 97232
County of Residence:	Washington	(503) 413-4084
Date Collected:	9/10/2024	
Date Received:	9/11/2024	Clinician: Waagmeester, Laura L., MD
PHL ID Number:	24091100013	Report Date: 00/00/00

Vibrio Culture

Preliminary Report

Specimen Source
Stool

Submitted Media
Transport Media

Vibrio Preliminary Result

Presumptive *Vibrio* spp. recovered 9/11/2024. Further characterization to follow.

COMMENT

OSPHL has temporarily suspended reporting of species identification pending evaluation of the new Centers for Disease Control analysis tool. Final results will be available following confirmation of performance specifications.