Public Health Division

Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

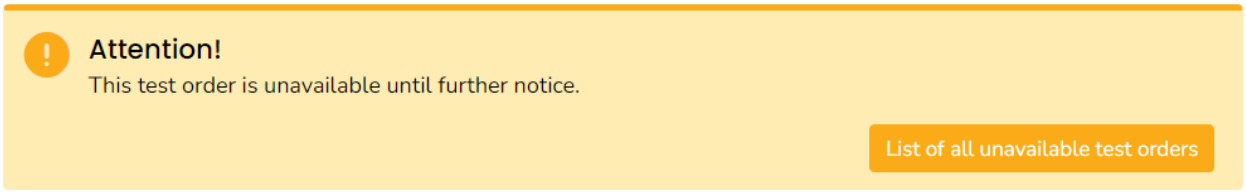
January 24, 2025

To All OSPHL Clients,

During the month of December, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Laboratories discontinued or paused testing for various tests listed on their Laboratory Test Directory. Please review the details below and share with your colleagues who need this information.

**What has changed?**
The CDC laboratories have discontinued or paused various tests previously available. For guidance on tests available from CDC, please consult the CDC Test Directory.

Discontinued tests will no longer appear in the CDC Test Directory search results. However, paused or temporarily unavailable tests will still appear along with specimen submission details. A banner, as shown below, will appear at the top of the Test Order page. In the list of unavailable tests, some entries may provide guidance on alternative testing resources.




**Specimens Pending Results from CDC**
OSPHL staff will notify facilities affected by discontinued or paused testing, regardless of whether CDC releases a report to OSPHL. CDC has provided written reports to OSPHL for some tests that are currently unavailable. The reports describe that results will not be released for the specimens submitted. If the CDC released a result, OSPHL will forward it to the facility that submitted the specimen to OSPHL.

CDC has not provided written reports for some samples related to testing they have temporarily paused. For these samples, OSPHL will release a preliminary report with an explanatory comment.

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Voice: 503-693-4100 | Fax: 503-693-5602 | All relay calls accepted | www.healthoregon.org/phl

**Future Specimen Submissions**

Effective immediately, the following actions will be implemented in alignment with the OSPHL Specimen Submission Policy (pdf) for specimens sent to OSPHL as described below.

1. For testing that was previously performed by the CDC and CDC testing has been:
    - Permanently discontinued; will be treated as an incorrect submission and a final report will be released.
    - Permanently discontinued; an alternative reference lab is available for submission.
        - Will be treated as a misrouted specimen and a final report will be released.
    - Temporarily paused,
        - A preliminary report with an explanatory comment will be released.
        - The specimen will be stored according to CDC storage requirements.
        - When the testing resumes at the CDC laboratory, the specimen will be submitted to CDC. CDC's final report will be released when available.
2. For specimens first tested by OSPHL then sent to CDC for confirmation or further analysis and CDC testing has been:
    - Permanently discontinued,
        - OSPHL testing will proceed as normal.
        - The specimen will not be forwarded to the CDC for further analysis.
        - A final report will be released with an explanatory comment.
    - Temporarily paused,
        - OSPHL testing will proceed as normal.
        - A preliminary report with an explanatory comment will be released.
        - The specimen will be stored according to CDC storage requirements.
        - When the testing resumes at the CDC, the specimen will be submitted to CDC. CDC's final report will be released when available.

Specimens that are handled as misrouted or incorrect submissions may be discarded or returned to the submitting facility at their cost. In specific circumstances, OSPHL may be able to support send-out to an alternate laboratory if the CDC has identified an alternate public health laboratory to perform the testing.

**Enteric-Specific Considerations**
OSPHL is occasionally unable to fully characterize enteric pathogens locally, including for *Vibrio cholerae*, *Salmonella* spp.*, E. coli* non-O157 and *Shigella*, and *Cronobacter* spp. In these cases, specimens have been forwarded to the CDC for additional testing. However, the CDC has discontinued these tests for patient-specific (clinical) reporting. In some cases, CDC will continue to support this testing for de-identified samples for public health surveillance only.

OSPHL staff are currently revalidating *Vibrio* spp. and validating *Salmonella* spp. identification and serotyping using whole genome sequencing for clinical reporting. These tests are expected to go live in the first half of 2025. Additional enteric pathogen testing will be validated using whole genome sequencing in the future. Client notices describing changes to testing methods will be sent closer to the implementation dates.

Thank you for your understanding during this transition. Please contact the laboratory at 503-693-4100 with questions about this change or reference testing needs.

Sincerely,

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