

Date: November 25, 2009
To: Alberta Health & Wellness, Infection Prevention and Control (Brenda Hannah), Laboratory Managers and Directors, Medical Officers of Health, MicroNet Members
From: ProvLab
Re: Resumption of Clinical MRSA Surveillance by PFGE Typing

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS POSSIBLE

Key Message:

Effective December 1, 2009, ProvLab will resume routine surveillance testing by PFGE for 1st clinical MRSA isolates.

As a result of test prioritization during pandemic, there is a backlog of untyped MRSA isolates received between mid-September and November 30. Routine MRSA surveillance typing by PFGE will resume effective December 1, 2009.

If results are required to support retrospective cluster or outbreak investigations, PFGE typing of stored isolates received between September and November 2009 can be arranged through the MOC/VOC. For outbreak investigations the ProvLab "EI" process should be coordinated through zonal Public Health officials and ProvLab MOC/VOC.

ProvLab is currently validating a more high throughput and rapid MRSA typing method (spa typing). Background information and results from the validation will be shared with our stakeholders in the coming weeks.

Laboratory Action Required:

Laboratories are asked to resume shipment of MRSA isolates to ProvLab on or after December 1 2009.

To Contact the Microbiologist on call:

Edmonton Site: 780-407-8822 (UAH Switchboard) or
780-407-7121 (Laboratory - ask for the Microbiologist on call)

Calgary Site: 403-944-1200 (ask for Microbiologist on call)