

LABORATORY BULLETIN

2009 – May - 08

Bulletin # 2009– 6

To: Alberta Health and Wellness
Lab Managers and Directors
Medical Officers of Health
Micronet members
Brenda Hannah
Elizabeth Henderson

Re: Temporary Suspension of MRSA Surveillance PFGE

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

In order to continue to meet the workload requirements for high volume testing associated with the H1N1 S-OIV outbreak, it is necessary to temporarily discontinue routine surveillance testing (PFGE) for 1st clinical MRSA isolates.

We will continue to provide this service for Outbreak Management in response to requests initiated through regional Public Health officials. If MRSA outbreak investigation support is required, please contact the MOC/VOC at either site and initiate the request using the ProvLab "EI" process for outbreak investigation.

We will provide periodic updates to our clients on our ability to resume routine surveillance (PFGE) for 1st clinical MRSA isolates.

In the mean time, we will continue to receive MRSA from submitting laboratories, and will store the isolates until we are able to reimplement this service.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Virologist (VOC)/Microbiologist (MOC)-on-call:

Edmonton Site – Ph: 780-407-8822 (UAH Switchboard) or
780-407-7121 (Laboratory) (ask for VOC/MOC)
Calgary Site – Ph: 403-944-1200 (ask for VOC/MOC)



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This bulletin was distributed to:

- ◆ Alberta Health and Wellness:
 - Chief Medical Officer of Health
 - Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health
 - Executive Director - Disease Control and Prevention
 - Manager TB Control
 - Manager STI Services
 - Manager Communicable Diseases
 - Provincial Medical Consultant TB Services
 - Provincial Medical Consultant STI Services
 - Larry Svenson
- ◆ Medical Officers of Health- Alberta, First Nations
- ◆ Medical Officers of Health- Alberta - Deputy/Associate
- ◆ Micronet members
- ◆ Brenda Hannah
- ◆ Elizabeth Henderson