



Main Office
 529 East Home Road
 Springfield, OH 45503

Phone: (937) 390-5600
 Fax: (937) 390-5625
 Email: health@ccchd.com

Clark County Combined Health District- Health Alert
Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Request for Isolates & Specimens
 November 17, 2022

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) requests bacterial pathogens and patient specimens of public health importance be sent to ODH Laboratory as specified in this memorandum.

The following is the current list of bacterial pathogens and specimens requested. **Refer to Attachment 1 for detailed information, including required forms. The forms to submit can be found at these links: [Microbiology Specimen Submission Form](#) and [Antimicrobial Resistance and Susceptibility Testing Submission Form](#). For information on *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotyping, see Attachment 2. For information on expanded antibiotic testing for Enterobacterales, see Attachment 3.** Please call the ODH Laboratory at (888)ODH-LABS or (614)728-0544 for questions related to microbiology, shipping, and handling of isolates and specimens.

- *Candida auris*
- Carbapenem-resistant (non-susceptible) organisms
- *Haemophilus influenzae*, < 5 yrs. of age, from normally sterile sites only
- *Legionella spp.*
- *Listeria monocytogenes*, from normally sterile sites only
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex*
- *Neisseria meningitidis*, from normally sterile sites only
- Pan-non-susceptible organisms
- *Salmonella*
- Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (including O157)
- Invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (see Attachment 2 for specifics)
- Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*
- *Vibrio spp.*

Requested Patient Specimens

- Stool specimens (e.g., Cary Blair (C&S) and enteric broth) that have tested positive by a culture independent diagnostic test (CIDT) for the enteric bacterial pathogens listed above, if the laboratory does not perform culture on CIDT-positive specimens.
- Stool specimens in a transport medium (e.g., Cary Blair) that have tested positive by a CIDT for norovirus infection, as requested by ODH Outbreak Response and Bioterrorism Investigation Team (ORBIT).
- Specimens, e.g., cerebrospinal fluid, that have tested positive by a CIDT for the presence of *Haemophilus influenzae*, < 5 yrs. of age, from normally sterile sites only, and *Neisseria meningitidis*, from normally sterile sites only.

The table below shows the number of cases of select diseases reported in Ohio in 2021 and the corresponding number of isolates identified:

Agent	Number of Cases Reported in 2021	Number of Isolates Identified in 2021
<i>Candida auris</i>	26	26
<i>Carbapenemase-producing CRE</i>	418	705
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (<5 yrs old)	25	28
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	42	29
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	7	8
<i>Salmonella spp.</i>	1198	1192
<i>Shiga toxin-producing E. coli</i> (including O157)	461	251
<i>Vibrio spp.</i>	71	14

Reflects isolates identified by ODH Laboratory, CDC or the Wisconsin State Public Health Laboratory, and other clinical labs. Isolates from out-of-state residents are included. There may be more than one isolate per case. Counts for *Candida auris* and carbapenemase-producing CRE reflect clinical cases; colonization cases are not included in numbers. Data from 2021 is preliminary.



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Specimen Requirements and Forms to use with bacterial isolates or clinical specimens being sent to the ODH

Laboratory: Submit with ODH Microbiology Specimen Submission Form ([HEA 2530](#)) or Antimicrobial Resistance and Susceptibility Testing Submission Form ([HEA 2535](#)) as indicated in Attachment 1. Note that each field on the form marked with an asterisk (*) is required information. If the submitting lab used a CIDT, please indicate the CIDT method used on the submission form.

The ODH Laboratory is upgrading to a new laboratory information management system. Submitters will be requested to order tests in this new system, once go-live occurs; however, the above forms (HEA 2530 and HEA 2535) will still be accepted. More information can be found in Attachment 4.

Shipping to the ODH Laboratory:

Ship in compliance with federal regulations and local guidelines. Refer to the ODH [Microbiology Client Services Manual](#) for more information. Ship Monday through Thursday; do not ship on Fridays.

Please ship to: Attention: Specimen Receiving-Microbiology, Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, Building 22, 8995 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. Telephone number: (888)634-5227 or (888)ODH-LABS.

Shipping Accounts:

ODH maintains several accounts with commercial courier services that are available to clinical laboratories to ship isolates and clinical specimens to the ODH Laboratory.

Carbapenem-non-susceptible organism account: A FedEx account is available for shipping carbapenem-non-susceptible organisms. To use this account, contact Rebekah Carman at rebekah.carman@odh.ohio.gov.

Enteric specimen accounts: The following shipping methods are available to both clinical laboratories and local health departments to ship enteric isolates, CIDT-positive stool specimens, and Cary Blair (C&S) stool specimens.

UPS or FedEx: Use UPS or FedEx for Exempt Human Specimens or Category B shipments only. To request a label, please e-mail Fred Jones, ODH Lab (Fred.Jones@odh.ohio.gov). Please state what you are shipping (e.g., isolate, stool, etc.). Do not use any ODH account number from the past.

- If you have daily UPS/FedEx pick-up, please use that for the pick-up of the package;
- If you do not have daily UPS/FedEx pick-up, please take your package to a nearby UPS/FedEx store.

Mercury Services: Use for Exempt Human Specimens, Category B, or Category A shipments; includes enteric specimens or isolates, parasitology (*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*), and food samples. Call (800)527-2187; request pickup for delivery to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory.

Shipping questions can be directed to Fred Jones, ODH Lab, tel (614)644-2563, or Sara Strauss tel (614)644-4593.

Reporting:

Sending in the isolate does not constitute a report of the positive finding. Meningococcal and cholera cases are Class A diseases and need to be reported immediately by telephone to the [local health department](#). All others described above are Class B diseases and are reported by the end of the next business day after finding the positive lab result.

See [Know your ABCs](#) for a list of reportable diseases and the timeframes for reporting.



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General Comments:

There is no fee for any of these assays.

Serotyping for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is being offered through CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network. Please do not send *S. pneumoniae* isolates to ODHL. Isolates should be sent to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene directly. See Attachment 2 for more details.

Current infectious disease data can be found in the [Annual Summary of Infectious Diseases, Ohio, 2019](#).

Please report Class A infectious diseases to the [local health department](#) where the patient resides.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call: ODH Laboratory at (888)ODH-LABS or (614)728-0544 for questions relating to microbiology, shipping, and handling or the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases at (614)995-5599 for questions relating to epidemiology, reporting of infectious diseases, and public health management.

By submitting isolates and clinical specimens described in this letter to the ODH Laboratory, you are supporting the mission of the Ohio Department of Health of advancing the health and well-being of all Ohioans by transforming the state's public health system through unique partnerships and funding streams; addressing the community conditions and inequities that lead to disparities in health outcomes; and implementing data-driven, evidence-based solutions. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Attachments

1. ODH Request for Bacterial Isolates or Patient Specimens
2. CDC Strep Outreach
3. Expanded Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for Hard-to-Treat Infections
4. ELIMS Flyer – ODH upgrading to new lab information system

If you are receiving this health alert via fax, please visit the CCCHD website (http://ccchd.com/?page_id=870) or follow the QR code below to view a digital copy with clickable links. If you wish to receive health alerts electronically in the future, please contact asauter@ccchd.com.

Alert Details

Date: 11/17/22

Time Sensitivity: Moderate

To: Medical offices, Urgent Cares, Clinics, Hospitals, Laboratories and ICPs

Target Audience: ICP staff and Laboratorians

From: Clark County Combined Health District

Subject: Request for Isolates and Specimens

Relevance to Public Health: High



Ohio Department of Health
November 2022
Request for Bacterial Isolates or Patient Specimens: Attachment 1

PATHOGEN	SOURCE	SEND ISOLATE TO ODH LAB? (1)	SEND CLINICAL SPECIMEN? (1)	FORM
<i>Campylobacter</i>	From any clinical site	No-unless specially requested for outbreak investigation	No, unless specially requested for outbreak investigation; submit CB	HEA 2530
<i>Candida auris</i> (2)	From any clinical site	No, isolates should be shipped directly to the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) regional laboratory	No	Call BID (614) 995- 5599 or contact HAIAR@odh.ohio.gov
Carbapenem-resistant (non-susceptible) organisms (3)	From any clinical site	Yes-for <i>Enterobacteriales</i> , <i>Ps. aeruginosa</i> , and <i>A. baumannii</i>	No	HEA 2535
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , < 5 yrs. of age (4)	From normally sterile sites only	Yes	Yes, if unable to recover organism from normally sterile site	HEA 2530
<i>Legionella</i> spp. (5)	From any clinical site	Yes, from any clinical site	See footnote 5	HEA 2530
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	From normally sterile sites only	Yes	No	HEA 2530
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> complex (6)	From any clinical site	Yes	Yes, if unable to recover organism	HEA 2530
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> (7)	From normally sterile sites only	Yes	Yes, if unable to recover organism	HEA 2530
Norovirus specimens testing positive by CIDT	Fecal specimens	N/A	Yes, if requested by ODH epidemiology	HEA 2530
Pan-non-susceptible organisms	From any clinical site	Yes	No	HEA 2535
<i>Salmonella</i>	From any clinical site	Yes	Yes, if lab does not perform culture of CIDT-positive specimen, submit CB	HEA 2530
Shiga toxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> (including O157)	From any clinical site	Yes	Yes, if lab does not perform culture of CIDT-positive specimen, submit CB or enteric broth	HEA 2530
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (8)	See footnote 8	Send directly to WI (8)	No	WI ISP form
Vancomycin-resistant <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (9)	From any clinical site	Yes	No	HEA 2535
<i>Vibrio</i> species (10)	From any clinical site	Yes	Yes, if lab does not perform culture of CIDT-positive specimens, submit CB	HEA 2530
<i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i>	From any clinical site	No-unless specially requested for outbreak investigation	No, unless specially requested for outbreak; submit CB	HEA 2530

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Request for Bacterial Isolates or Patient Specimens: Attachment 1

CIDT – Culture Independent Diagnostic Test
 CB – Cary Blair (C&S) transport medium
[HEA 2530](#) – Microbiology Specimen Submission Form
[HEA 2535](#) – Antimicrobial Resistance and Susceptibility Testing Submission Form

Footnotes

(1) Refer to the [ODHL Client Services Manual](#) for specific information.

(2) *Candida auris*: While ODH Laboratory is not testing for *Candida auris* at this time, the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases can facilitate confirmatory testing with the Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network (ARLN) regional laboratory. Additional information regarding the importance of this significant emerging pathogen be found on the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/>. Laboratories suspecting *C. auris* may contact the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases HAI/AR Program at (614) 995-5599 or HAIAR@odh.ohio.gov to arrange for confirmatory testing.

C. auris can be misidentified as a number of different organisms when using traditional phenotypic methods for yeast identification such as VITEK 2 YST, API 20C, BD Phoenix yeast identification system, and MicroScan.

Identification Method	Organism <i>C. auris</i> can be misidentified as
Vitek 2 YST*	<i>Candida haemulonii</i> <i>Candida duobushaemulonii</i>
API 20C	<i>Rhodotorula glutinis</i> (characteristic red color not present) <i>Candida sake</i>
API ID 32C	<i>Candida intermedia</i> <i>Candida sake</i> <i>Saccharomyces kluyveri</i>
BD Phoenix yeast identification system	<i>Candida haemulonii</i> <i>Candida catenulata</i>
MicroScan	<i>Candida famata</i> <i>Candida guilliermondii</i> ** <i>Candida lusitaniae</i> ** <i>Candida parapsilosis</i> **
RapID Yeast Plus	<i>Candida parapsilosis</i> **

*There have been reports of *C. auris* being misidentified as *Candida lusitaniae* and *Candida famata* on VITEK 2. A confirmatory test such as cornmeal agar may be warranted for these species.

***C. guilliermondii*, *C. lusitaniae*, and *C. parapsilosis* generally make pseudohyphae on cornmeal agar. If hyphae or pseudohyphae are not present on cornmeal agar, this should raise suspicion for *C. auris* as *C. auris* typically does not make hyphae or pseudohyphae. However, some *C. auris* isolates have formed hyphae or pseudohyphae. Therefore, it would be prudent to consider any *C. guilliermondii*, *C. lusitaniae*, and *C. parapsilosis* isolates identified on MicroScan or any *C. parapsilosis* isolates identified on RapID Yeast Plus as possible *C. auris* isolates and forward them for further identification.

(3) Carbapenem-resistant organisms: ODH Laboratory will perform mCIM testing for carbapenemase production (*Enterobacterales* and *Ps. aeruginosa*) and PCR for mechanism testing (*Enterobacterales*, *Ps. aeruginosa*, and *A. baumannii*). Please continue to submit isolates that demonstrate nonsusceptibility to carbapenem antibiotics as outlined below.

Ohio Department of Health
November 2022
Request for Bacterial Isolates or Patient Specimens: Attachment 1

Carbapenem-resistant *Enterobacterales* (CRE): *Enterobacterales* that demonstrate the following MIC patterns: ertapenem with MIC greater than or equal to 1 ug/mL, OR meropenem, doripenem, or imipenem with MIC greater than or equal to 2 ug/mL. Imipenem exception: isolates of *Proteus*, *Providencia*, or *Morganella* spp. demonstrating imipenem non-susceptibility in the absence of non-susceptibility to another carbapenem antibiotic do not need to be submitted. Isolates of these organisms demonstrating non-susceptibility to imipenem are typically resistant due to other mechanisms.

Carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* (CRPA): *Ps. aeruginosa* from non-cystic fibrosis patients that demonstrate the following MIC patterns: doripenem, meropenem, or imipenem with MIC of ≥ 4 ug/ml AND non-susceptible to cefepime or ceftazidime. Please submit isolates of *Ps. aeruginosa* from CF patients if the isolate is producing carbapenemase (mCIM or CarbaNP positive) OR is PCR positive for KPC, NDM, VIM, OXA, or IMP genes.

Carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter baumannii* (CRAB): *A. baumannii* that demonstrate the following MIC patterns: doripenem, meropenem, or imipenem with MIC of ≥ 4 ug/ml.

Please continue to include a copy of antimicrobial susceptibility testing results from your laboratory. Expanded antimicrobial susceptibility testing may be available for treatment options.

(4) *Haemophilus influenzae*: Submit all isolates from normally sterile sites (blood, CSF or other normally sterile body fluids only) in persons <5 years of age to ODH Lab. Isolates from patients 5 years of age or older can also be submitted if serotyping is desired. *H. influenzae* isolates will be sent to the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene for characterization. In addition to the [ODH Microbiology Form](#) (HEA 2530), submit the [Wisconsin VPD Submission Form](#).

(5) *Legionella* spp. Submit clinical isolates from any site. Use BCYE slants or agar plates, and ship on a cold pack. If a respiratory specimen is positive by PCR (DNA) for *Legionella*, freeze the clinical specimen and the DNA product as soon as possible, and ship to ODH Lab on dry ice. Respiratory specimens may include bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial washing, sputum, tracheal aspirate, etc.

(6) *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex: Submit one isolate from each patient for genotyping. When submitting *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates, please specify if susceptibility testing is being requested in addition to genotyping.

(7) *Neisseria meningitidis*: Submit all isolates from normally sterile sites (blood, CSF or other normally sterile body fluids only). *N. meningitidis* is especially sensitive to changes in temperature and delays in transport. Please ship a fresh subculture on chocolate or sheep blood agar slants by overnight carrier. Ship Monday through Thursday; do not ship on Fridays. In addition to the [ODH Microbiology Form](#) (HEA 2530), submit the [Wisconsin VPD Submission Form](#).

(8) Invasive *Streptococcus pneumoniae*: ARLN offers serotyping of these isolates: (1) all cerebrospinal fluid isolates; (2) invasive isolates (sterile body site such as blood) that are non-susceptible to any relevant antibiotic according to current [Clinical Lab Standards Institute M100](#) guidance; (3) possible failure of therapy or vaccine, or possible outbreak-related isolates. Results can be expected within 10 days. Labs must ship the isolate and completed [WI ISP form](#) directly to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, Communicable Disease Division, 2601 Agriculture Dr., Madison WI 53718. Clinical labs are asked to call WI on shipping: tel (800)862-1013. See Attachment 2 for additional information.

(9) Vancomycin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) from any site (MIC results of ≥ 16): Include a copy of antimicrobial susceptibility testing results from your laboratory.

(10) *Vibrio* species: Submit all *Vibrio* species including the recently reclassified *Photobacterium damsela* (formerly *Vibrio damsela*) and *Grimontia hollisae* (formerly *Vibrio hollisae*).

CDC AR Lab Network requests isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Provide your clinicians free serotype results and support public health

CDC's Antibiotic Resistance (AR) Laboratory Network offers free serotyping and ID confirmation of *S. pneumoniae* when you submit certain isolates for public health surveillance. Serotype results can aid clinical practice to evaluate for vaccine failure, immune deficiency, and outbreak identification. Clinical isolates are also vitally important to public health programs that monitor changes in circulating serotypes and antibiotic resistance.

Please send these isolates to your designated AR Lab Network *Streptococcus* Reference Center:

- › All **cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) isolates**, regardless of susceptibility test results
- › **Invasive isolates** (sterile body site such as blood) **that are non-susceptible** to any relevant antibiotic according to current Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute M100 guidance
- › Possible **failure of therapy or vaccine**, or **possible outbreak-related isolates**



Send to Minnesota Dept. of Health Public Health Laboratory

Send to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Streptococcus Reference Center Contact:
ARLNMN@state.mn.us

Streptococcus Reference Center Contact:
WIARLN@slh.wisc.edu

Why submit *S. pneumoniae* isolates?



Pneumococcal disease is a serious public health threat.

S. pneumoniae can cause infections like pneumonia, bacteremia, and meningitis.



It can be fatal.

There are more than 2 million pneumococcal infections each year in the U.S., resulting in more than 6,000 deaths.



Treatment failure is a concern.

Pneumococcal bacteria are resistant to one or more antibiotics in more than 30% of cases.



Lab testing can identify trends.

AST and molecular analysis can identify persistent serotypes and inform public health strategies.

Contact your AR Lab Network *Streptococcus* Reference Center for submission instructions or to discuss other isolates of concern.

Note: 1) Contact your state health department if you have any questions about whether isolates should be submitted directly to the AR Lab Network *Streptococcus* Reference Center or first to your state public health laboratory for forwarding, as states vary in requirements. **2)** Please do not send isolates if already submitted to CDC's Active Bacterial Core surveillance (ABCs) program, which performs surveillance in specific geographic catchment areas as part of CDC's Emerging Infections Program including: CT, MN, and NM and select counties in CA, CO, GA, MD, NY, OR, and TN. If you are unsure, please consult your state health department.

For more information on CDC's AR Lab Network, visit:
www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/laboratories.html

CS322647-A



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Expanded Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing for Hard-to-Treat Infections

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing for Enterobacteriaceae producing a metallo-beta-lactamase (MBL)

Clinicians, hospital laboratories, and public health labs can request expanded antimicrobial susceptibility testing (ExAST) from CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Lab Network (AR Lab Network) to find new, effective treatment options for their patients' most resistant infections.

- Enterobacteriaceae are resistant to new drugs for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) treatment, specifically ceftazidime-avibactam and meropenem-vaborbactam. However, these bacteria may be susceptible to the combination therapy ceftazidime + avibactam + aztreonam*.
- Susceptibility testing is CLIA-compliant and results will be reported for ceftazidime + avibactam, aztreonam; and aztreonam + avibactam to help assess utility of combination therapy.
- CDC plans to expand testing as new antimicrobial treatment options become available for other hard-to-treat bacterial infections.
- There is no cost for this service.

*Ceftazidime + avibactam + aztreonam is a combination of drugs recommended by the 2018 Sanford Guide for treatment of serious infections caused by MBL-producing Enterobacteriaceae.

1

What isolates can I submit?

Hospital laboratories and clinicians are encouraged to submit Enterobacteriaceae isolates that:

- Test non-susceptible to all beta-lactams, including either ceftazidime-avibactam or meropenem-vaborbactam. These isolates may be MBL-producing isolates with few effective treatment options.
- OR-
- Enterobacteriaceae with NDM, VIM, or IMP genes confirmed by a molecular test and are highly resistant to all or the majority of antimicrobials already tested.

2

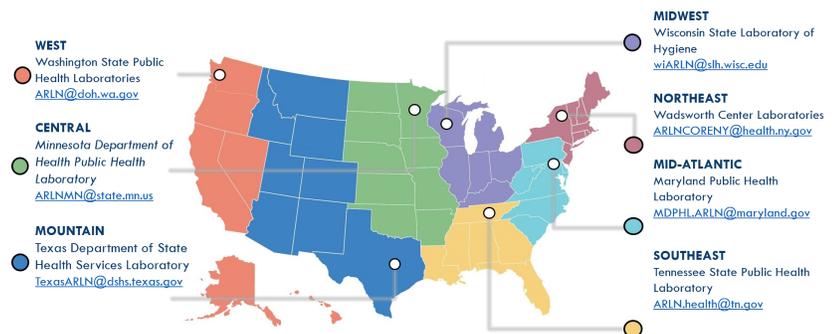
What is the testing process?

- AST turn-around time is 3 business days (once isolate received) for therapy decisions.
- Isolates will be tested to confirm carbapenem resistance, carbapenemase production, and to identify carbapenemase gene-coded resistance.
- Isolates that meet the inclusion criteria will be tested for susceptibility to ceftazidime + avibactam, aztreonam and avibactam + aztreonam.

3

How do I request the test and receive results?

- Healthcare providers, hospital laboratories, and public health labs should email their regional lab to request testing and instructions for submitting the bacterial isolate.
- Provide preliminary lab testing results and confirm that the facility's infection control department has been notified and/or infectious disease physician has been consulted.
- See regional lab map and contact information on the right.



AS PART OF THE AR LAB NETWORK, YOUR STATE & REGIONAL LAB WORK TO:

DETECT RESISTANT SPECIES & NEW THREATS | PERFORM SUSCEPTIBILITY TESTING TO TRACK RESISTANCE | HELP RESPOND TO OUTBREAKS

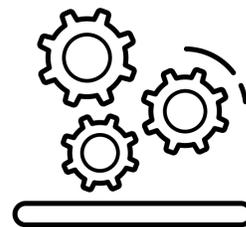
www.cdc.gov/DrugResistance/Solutions-Initiative/AR-Lab-Network



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Department
of Health



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director

The Ohio Department of Health Laboratory is soon upgrading to a new lab information system!

Submitters will have access to the new client portal. The Ohio Department of Health **requests potential submitters fill out the linked form as soon as possible**, to begin the onboarding process into this new system.

The form can be accessed by following the below steps:

- 1) Go to this web address: <https://odhredcap.odh.ohio.gov/surveys/>
- 2) Then enter this code: K9P43WK98

Alternately, you can scan this barcode.

Note: this form can be completed in multiple sittings. Please click the “Save and Return Later” button and save the Return Code.



The department’s new client portal will allow:

- Electronic test ordering,
 - View and management of test orders,
 - Access to real-time status of specimens in the testing process,
 - Access to electronic test results,
 - And more....
-

Questions? Email odhlabs@odh.ohio.gov

Icon courtesy of the Noun Project: created by Vectors Point.

Ohio Department of Health Public Health Laboratory
8995 East Main Street, Building 22
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068 U.S.A.

888-634-5227
FAX 614-644-4591
www.odh.ohio.gov



Mike DeWine, Governor
Jon Husted, Lt. Governor

Bruce Vanderhoff, MD, MBA, Director

DATE: November 15, 2022

TO: Ohio Microbiology Laboratory Directors and Infection Preventionists

FROM: Dr. Kristen Dickerson, State Epidemiologist and Chief, Bureau of Infectious Diseases 

CC: Health Commissioners, Medical Directors and Directors of Nursing of Ohio Local Health Jurisdictions

SUBJECT: Request for Bacterial Isolates or Patient Specimens

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) requests bacterial pathogens and patient specimens of public health importance be sent to ODH Laboratory as specified in the attachment to this memorandum.

Please forward this memo to the Microbiology Lab Director at your facility.

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Please ship to: Attention: Specimen Receiving-Microbiology, Ohio Department of Health Laboratory, Building 22, 8995 E. Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. Telephone number: (888)634-5227 or (888)ODH-LABS.

Shipping Accounts:

ODH maintains several accounts with commercial courier services that are available to clinical laboratories to ship isolates and clinical specimens to the ODH Laboratory.

Carbapenem-non-susceptible organism account: A FedEx account is available for shipping carbapenem-non-susceptible organisms. To use this account, contact Rebekah Carman at rebekah.carman@odh.ohio.gov.

Enteric specimen accounts: The following shipping methods are available to both clinical laboratories and local health departments to ship enteric isolates, CIDT-positive stool specimens, and Cary Blair (C&S) stool specimens.

UPS or FedEx: Use UPS or FedEx for Exempt Human Specimens or Category B shipments only. To request a label, please e-mail Fred Jones, ODH Lab (Fred.Jones@odh.ohio.gov). Please state what you are shipping (e.g., isolate, stool, etc.). Do not use any ODH account number from the past.

- o If you have daily UPS/FedEx pick-up, please use that for the pick-up of the package;
- o If you do not have daily UPS/FedEx pick-up, please take your package to a nearby UPS/FedEx store.

Mercury Services: Use for Exempt Human Specimens, Category B, or Category A shipments; includes enteric specimens or isolates, parasitology (*Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia*), and food samples. Call (800)527-2187; request pickup for delivery to the Ohio Department of Health Laboratory.

Shipping questions can be directed to Fred Jones, ODH Lab, tel (614)644-2563, or Sara Strauss tel (614)644-4593.

Reporting:

Sending in the isolate does not constitute a report of the positive finding. Meningococcal and cholera cases are Class A diseases and need to be reported immediately by telephone to the [local health department](#). All others described above are Class B diseases and are reported by the end of the next business day after finding the positive lab result.

See [Know your ABCs](#) for a list of reportable diseases and the timeframes for reporting.

General Comments:

There is no fee for any of these assays.

Serotyping for *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is being offered through CDC's Antibiotic Resistance Laboratory Network. Please do not send *S. pneumoniae* isolates to ODHL. Isolates should be sent to Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene directly. See Attachment 2 for more details.

Current infectious disease data can be found in the [Annual Summary of Infectious Diseases, Ohio, 2019](#).

Please report Class A infectious diseases to the [local health department](#) where the patient resides.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call: ODH Laboratory at (888)ODH-LABS or (614)728-0544 for questions relating to microbiology, shipping, and handling or the ODH Bureau of Infectious Diseases at (614)995-5599 for questions relating to epidemiology, reporting of infectious diseases, and public health management.

By submitting isolates and clinical specimens described in this letter to the ODH Laboratory, you are supporting the mission of the Ohio Department of Health of advancing the health and well-being of all Ohioans by transforming the state's public health system through unique partnerships and funding streams; addressing the community conditions and inequities that lead to disparities in health outcomes; and implementing data-driven, evidence-based solutions. Your support is greatly appreciated.