



## MLS Laboratory Update Retrospective Surveillance for *Cronobacter sakazakii* Infections July 19, 2010

### ***Purpose of this Message***

MDH is asking for the laboratory community's assistance in retrospective surveillance for *Cronobacter sakazakii* (formerly *Enterobacter sakazakii*) infections.

### **Background**

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Foodborne Disease Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet), is asking for your help in assessing the public health burden of *Cronobacter sakazakii* (formerly *Enterobacter sakazakii*) infections. Transmission of *C. sakazakii* infection is believed to be foodborne in most cases. The incidence of *C. sakazakii* infection is unknown. However, two severe cases in New Mexico, one of them fatal, were recently reported in the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, raising concern about the true incidence and health burden posed by these infections. You can access the report at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5842a3.htm>

### **Please Respond**

In Minnesota, *C. sakazakii* infections are only reportable and isolates submittable, in infants under the age of one year. However, to determine the overall incidence of *C. sakazakii* infection, MDH in collaboration with the CDC FoodNet program, are requesting that clinical laboratories in FoodNet surveillance areas (all of Minnesota) review their records for isolation of *C. sakazakii* in patients of all ages, if time permits. We would appreciate your reviewing the records that are readily available to you, from 2003 to present, if possible. For each positive culture identified, we request that you include the following information in an email to [Joshua.rounds@state.mn.us](mailto:Joshua.rounds@state.mn.us):

- 1) the month and year of specimen collection
- 2) the specimen source
- 3) the age of the patient
- 4) time period of the look back
- 5) or, if zero cases, report "zero cases" and time period

We know that not all laboratories have retained records dating to 2003, so we would also like to know the period you were able to review. We also understand if you are unable to perform this look-back. However, if you do access your records and find zero cases, please report this information so we can incorporate your data.

If you have questions regarding this project or the data requested please contact Joshua Rounds via email [Joshua.rounds@state.mn.us](mailto:Joshua.rounds@state.mn.us) or phone: 651-201-5083.

**Thank You!**

We very much appreciate your help with this project. We also recognize and thank you for all of the work your laboratory does to report and submit enteric pathogens to MDH, which in turn informs FoodNet, a nationally and internationally recognized program for the excellence of its reports and its contributions to improving food safety <http://www.cdc.gov/foodnet/>. This work is only possible with your ongoing support and commitment.

Thank you!

Josh Rounds, MPH  
Epidemiologist  
MDH- Acute Disease Investigation & Control Section  
Phone: 651.201.5083  
Email: [Joshua.rounds@state.mn.us](mailto:Joshua.rounds@state.mn.us)

Paula M. (Snippes) Vagnone, MT (ASCP)  
Program Advisor, Minnesota Laboratory System  
Public Health Laboratory, Minnesota Department of Health  
Phone: 651-201-5581  
[paula.snippes@state.mn.us](mailto:paula.snippes@state.mn.us)  
[www.health.state.mn.us/mls](http://www.health.state.mn.us/mls)

This is an update from the Minnesota Department of Health – Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) and the Minnesota Laboratory System (MLS). This message is being sent to MLS laboratory contacts serving Minnesota residents. You are not required to reply to this message.

**\*\*Please forward this to all appropriate personnel within your institution and Health System\*\***

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