



MLS: Laboratory Update

MDH TB Laboratory Updates

October 28, 2010

Purpose of this Message:

This message describes two procedural changes in the MDH-PHL Mycobacteriology Laboratory regarding (1) streptomycin reporting and (2) specimen submission requirements.

Streptomycin susceptibilities will no longer be routinely reported

Effective immediately streptomycin will no longer be reported as part of the primary drug testing panel performed on isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* recovered by or referred to the MDH-PHL. Going forward, the panel of primary drugs will include isoniazid at two concentrations, rifampin, ethambutol, and pyrazinamide. This change is in keeping with the current CLSI standard M24-A, Susceptibility Testing of Mycobacteria, Nocardiae, and Other Aerobic Actinomycetes. Streptomycin susceptibility testing will continue to be available by specific request.

Minimum specimen volume requirements have changed

Requirements and instructions for specimens submitted to MDH for AFB smear and culture have been revised. The new information is posted on the MDH Clinical Laboratory Guide to Services web-page at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phl/clin/gts/index.html> Please note changes regarding optimum specimen volumes and rejection criteria.

If you have Questions about these changes:

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

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