



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

OLGA DAZZO
DIRECTOR

December 20, 2011

Dear Infection Control and Laboratory Staff:

RE: Submission of *M. tuberculosis* isolates to Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Laboratory

This letter is to highlight the importance of assuring timely submission of *M. tuberculosis* isolates to the MDCH Bureau of Laboratories (BOL). The MDCH Communicable Disease Rules indicate that a laboratory that initially receives any clinical specimen which yields *M. tuberculosis* complex, or yields a preliminary result indicative of *M. tuberculosis* complex, is responsible for ensuring that the following are submitted:

- (a) All preliminary results and any interpretation of those results to the appropriate local health department.
- (b) The first *M. tuberculosis* complex isolate, or subculture thereof, from the patient being tested for tuberculosis, to the MDCH BOL.
- (c) Any *M. tuberculosis* complex isolate, or subculture thereof, from a follow-up specimen, collected 90 days or more after the collection of the first *M. tuberculosis* complex positive specimen.

Preliminary results include any testing results that indicate *M. tuberculosis* complex prior to final culture identification (e.g. nucleic acid or chromatographic tests).

Timely provision of isolates and test results to relevant public health authorities is critical in assuring appropriate case management and treatment. Investigation of contacts, evaluation of response to treatment, and continuity of care are all affected by these results. We appreciate your attention and assistance in this matter. Please contact the MDCH TB Control Program (517) 335-8165 or TB laboratory (517) 335-9636 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Corinne Miller, PhD
Director, Bureau of Disease Control, Prevention, and Epidemiology and
State Epidemiologist

CM:PD:rlt

cc: Peter Davidson, PhD
James Rudrick, PhD