RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH
LANSING

NICK LYON
DIRECTOR

January 26, 2015

Dear Michigan Laboratory System Partners,

The Michigan Laboratory Response Network (LRN) was developed based on the strong collaboration and cooperation between public health and clinical laboratories in our state, ensuring an appropriate response to public health threats. Over the years, the LRN in Michigan has changed as technology and the needs of the LRN have evolved under the direction of the national LRN program. Once again, the LRN is changing.

As of Monday, January 26th, the LRN is implementing new program requirements which will affect the Michigan LRN Reference Level Laboratories in Grand Rapids (Kent County), Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo County), Pontiac (Oakland County), and Saginaw (Saginaw County). Confirmatory testing of all potential biothreat agents will now only be performed in Lansing at the Michigan Department of Community Health Bureau of Laboratories (MDCH BOL). These changes will not directly affect the long-standing relationship you have developed with your Regional Laboratory. They will still serve as your point of contact and liaison if you feel you have a possible bio-threat agent requiring confirmation. Your Regional Laboratory will facilitate the transport of your specimen and/or isolate to the MDCH BOL in Lansing where the confirmatory testing will be performed or you may be requested to directly submit your specimen and/or isolate to Lansing.

Test requisition forms and specimen submission information can be located on the MDCH BOL website: www.michigan.gov/mdchlab then click on "Specimen Submission."

The Regional Laboratories have been and will continue to be a valuable component of the preparedness efforts in MI. Be sure to maintain the contacts you have nurtured with your Regional Laboratory. We look forward to our continued collaborations and cooperation to ensure the health and safety of the citizens of Michigan – now – and in the future.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support.

Val
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