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March 1, 2019

## **CADHAM PROVINCIAL LABORATORY 2019 UPDATE, 1<sup>ST</sup> EDITION**

**To all CPL Clients/Practitioners  
Please share this with others in your Clinic, Institution or Program**

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Cadham Provincial Laboratory (CPL) is constantly working to maintain the highest level of assistance to Manitoba practitioners. Please note the following information regarding CPL services.

### **1. Delay in Serological and Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) Screening Results**

Please be aware that with the large volumes of testing being driven by the province-wide concurrent outbreaks in syphilis, Hepatitis B Virus, gonorrhea and Hepatitis C Virus, CPL is encountering delays in reporting results across many serological and gonorrhea/chlamydia testing. General screening specimens are currently subject to delays of up a few days while CPL works on redeploying and recruiting staff, upgrading instrumentation and information systems, and reengineering workflows to improve the delays encountering practitioners.

### **2. Molecular enteric bacterial multiplex screening panel, February 2019**

Beginning in February 2019, CPL will begin screening all stool specimens submitted for bacterial culture using the BD Max Enteric Panel, a molecular multiplex method that detects nucleic acid of *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Campylobacter* spp. and also the toxin gene in Shiga-toxin producing bacteria such as *E. coli* O157:H7. Any positive detections by this method will be cultured for confirmation and further public health investigation.

This approach will speed and add sensitivity to the detection of these enteric pathogens, and likely lead to enhanced culture effectiveness and food safety by focusing laboratory efforts on screen positive stool specimens. There will be occasions where culture does not subsequently match positive molecular results; this likely represents very low burden of organism, resolved infection, or non-viable organism. Clinical assessment should guide the ultimate interpretation of these combined results, as in many cases, especially for *Campylobacter*, *Salmonella* and Shiga-toxigenic *E. coli* positive results, antibiotic treatment may be unnecessary or contraindicated.

If you have further questions about this form of testing, please email us at [cadham@gov.mb.ca](mailto:cadham@gov.mb.ca) or page the CPL physician on-call at 204-787-2071 for more urgent inquiries.

### **3. New Guide to Services**

The latest version of the CPL Guide to Services is now available on the CPL website. Although initiated in and published as a 2017 document, it contains updates from 2018 as well. Please find it on the website (above), under Publications.

### **4. Completion of All Fields: Maternal Serum Screening (MSS) Requisitions**

Please be aware that practitioners submitting MSS Requisitions should be completing all fields. Where fields are not filled, CPL staff are spending much time calling practitioner offices to obtain the missing information. This ties up both office and CPL staff, sometimes for long periods, and delays screening results. Your assistance in preventing this set of costly delays is appreciated.

## **5. No Phlebotomy Services**

A large number of patients appear at CPL to have blood drawn for CPL and non-CPL tests. CPL does not operate a phlebotomy service, therefore patients should be directed to alternate facilities to have blood collected. CPL maintains a list of Winnipeg phlebotomy centres that can be obtained by calling 204-945-4195.

If you require more information (including how to contact us), access to one of the CPL forms, or need to consult the On-line Guide to Services, visit the CPL website at:

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/>

Sincerely,

### ***ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:***

Paul Van Caesele, MD FRCPC  
Medical Director, Cadham Provincial Laboratory