

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Health Department and Hospital Clinicians

**FROM:** Richard Steece, PhD, D(ABMM)  
Laboratory Director

**DATE:** April 22, 2021

**SUBJECT:** Discontinuation of tests performed at the State Public Health Lab

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In an effort to comply with the Governor's priority for fiscal strength and efficient government, the State Public Health Lab (SPHL) has made several changes to our testing menu during the past year, including discontinuing several low volume assays. Below is a list of assays that are no longer performed at the State Public Health Lab as well as alternative testing options that are available.

- Viral Culture (discontinued 11/2/2020)
  - Includes Cytomegalovirus (CMV), Varicella Zoster Virus (VZV), and Enterovirus Culture (EVD). Alternatives include PCR-based VZV testing at the SPHL with prior approval. For CMV and EVD, clinicians can either check with commercial laboratories for testing availability or contact the Centers for Disease Control regarding submission authorizations through the SPHL.
- Bordetella PCR (discontinued 10/22/2020)
  - The State of TN has a current contract with AEL for reference lab testing. Requests for Bordetella PCR can be requested through AEL.
- Biofire FilmArray Meningitis Panel (ME) (discontinued 1/29/2021)
  - The SPHL has a bacterial meningitis PCR panel available for *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. The SPHL also maintains ability to perform culture techniques for the bacterial pathogens that were included in the ME panel.
- Biofire FilmArray Respiratory Panel (discontinued 1/29/2021)
  - The SPHL maintains a multi-pathogen respiratory panel supplied by a different vendor (Luminex) so although the Biofire FilmArray panel is discontinued, the SPHL still maintains the ability to perform a multi-plex panel for respiratory pathogens.
- Zika/Dengue/Chikungunya PCR (discontinued 1/29/2021)
  - Clinicians can either check with commercial laboratories for testing availability or contact the Centers for Disease Control regarding submission authorizations through the SPHL. The SPHL will reinstate this assay should an outbreak response be needed.
- MRSA PCR (May 2021)
  - Clinicians can either check with commercial laboratories for testing availability or contact the Centers for Disease Control regarding submission authorizations through the SPHL.
- Rubella IgM (May 2021)
  - The State of TN has a current contract with AEL for reference lab testing. Requests for Rubella serology, both IgM and IgG, are available through AEL.

For questions regarding these changes, please contact Paula Gibbs at [Paula.L.Gibbs@tn.gov](mailto:Paula.L.Gibbs@tn.gov).