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National Center for HIV/ AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

Division of Tuberculosis

Subject: National TB Laboratory Services

The purpose of this communication is to notify you of the current status of national tuberculosis (TB) laboratory services given COVID-19 response efforts.

- CDC's [Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance \(MDDR\) Service](#) is operational and we are working diligently to ensure sufficient staffing and resources to provide both molecular and growth-based drug susceptibility testing (DST). Turnaround times for issuance of reports back to submitters could be delayed. If you need additional information or have questions, please feel free to contact TBLab@cdc.gov or 404-639-2455.
- The [National DST Reference Center for *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*](#) at the California Microbial Diseases Laboratory is operational. For enrolled laboratories, please continue to refer specimens and isolates for pyrosequencing or MGIT DST as per your usual procedure. For additional information, please contact CDPHTBDST@cdph.ca.gov or 510-412-3949.
- The [National TB Molecular Surveillance Center](#) at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Bureau of Laboratories is operational, and referral of *M. tuberculosis* isolates should continue. CDC is continuing to provide conventional genotyping results and conducting analysis of whole genome sequencing data, as applicable. For additional information, please contact Angie Schooley at schooleya@michigan.gov or 517-335-9637.

The response to COVID-19 is an unprecedented event and could impact public health laboratory testing for TB. We have received reports of shifting or rotating mycobacteriology staff to support COVID-19 testing and also have received notification that some public health laboratories are implementing continuity of operations plans. As always, we strongly encourage regular communication between TB programs and public health laboratories to understand any impacts to TB testing capacity. We will keep you informed of any modifications to national services, as applicable. We will post this guidance, and any future updates to CDC's [TB in Public Health Emergencies webpage](#).

If you encounter difficulties with continued TB testing, please let us know by contacting either your assigned TB laboratory consultant or me at astarks@cdc.gov or 404-639-3205.