

**From:** Starks, Angela M. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) eog0@cdc.gov  
**Subject:** Dear Colleague Letter - MDDR Service Enhancements - New tNGS Assay  
**Date:** February 2, 2023 at 10:36 AM



**To:** CDCL-TBLABORATORYCONTACTS@listserv.cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE TB Control Officers TBControl@cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE TB Nurse Consultants DDIDNCHHSTPTBNurseConsultants@cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE TB COE DDIDNCHHSTPDTEBICOE@cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE TB Project Directors DDIDNCHHSTPTBProjectDirectors@cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE Medical Consultants DDIDNCHHSTPDTEMedicalConsultants@cdc.gov  
**Cc:** LoBue, Philip (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) pgl5@cdc.gov, Koski, Kathryn (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) kak4@cdc.gov, Chorba, Terence L. (Terry) (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) tlc2@cdc.gov, Goswami, Neela (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) nef7@cdc.gov, Jereb, John A. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) jxj4@cdc.gov, McClure, Susan (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) zur1@cdc.gov, Buss, Sarah I APHL sarah.buss@aphl.org, Marinova-Petkova, Atanaska (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) lxy8@cdc.gov, Johnston, Stephanie P. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) sip5@cdc.gov, Youngblood, Monica (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) wsk9@cdc.gov, Stafford, Cortney (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) fcx6@cdc.gov, Swint, Stephanie (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) plf8@cdc.gov, Posey, James E. (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) hzp9@cdc.gov, Diem, Lois (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) lgd9@cdc.gov, Moon, Wan (CDC/DDID/NCHHSTP/DTE) tdu0@cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE Senior Staff DDIDNCHHSTPTBSeniorStaff@cdc.gov, CDC DDID NCHHSTP DTE FSB Project Officers DDIDNCHHSTPTBPROJECTOFFICERS@cdc.gov

Dear Colleagues,

The Division of Tuberculosis Elimination Laboratory Branch is pleased to announce that beginning Monday, February 6, 2023, a new targeted next generation sequencing (tNGS) assay will be implemented as the primary method for CDC's Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance (MDDR) service. The new assay will enhance early detection of mutations associated with drug resistance and allow for examination of genetic loci associated with resistance to rifampin, isoniazid, ethambutol, pyrazinamide, fluoroquinolones, second-line injectables, clofazimine, linezolid, and bedaquiline. Growth-based drug susceptibility testing will also be performed concurrently but will not yet include testing for clofazimine, linezolid, and bedaquiline. We are working diligently to add this capacity to our testing menu soon.

Additionally, as part of service enhancements, we will be reporting tNGS results through CDC's laboratory information management system with reports going primarily to state public health laboratories. This is a change in that MDDR reports will no longer be provided via secure fax. The report format has been simplified to aid review of results. Public health laboratory submitters are encouraged to explore use of [CDC's Specimen Test Order and Reporting](#) (CSTOR) web portal.

The [MDDR User's Guide](#) provides additional details regarding the tNGS assay and MDDR service with instructions for sample submission including the use of the [MDDR Request Form](#). To provide more information about MDDR service changes, review the new report

format, and answer questions, we will be hosting a webinar on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 2:00pm.

Register for the webinar here: [Webinar registration | Microsoft Teams](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [TBLab@cdc.gov](mailto:TBLab@cdc.gov).

Kind regards,  
Angela

Angela M. Starks, PhD | Chief | Laboratory Branch | Division of Tuberculosis Elimination | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention | Office: 404.639.3205 | email: [astarks@cdc.gov](mailto:astarks@cdc.gov)