Proposed Health Code Amendment: Enteric Disease Testing and Isolate Submission

Summary
The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (the Department) is requesting that the Board of Health amend §13.03(b) of the NYC Health Code to require laboratories to perform culture testing on all specimens found to be positive by a culture-independent diagnostic test (CIDT) or other diagnostic test for *Campylobacter*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Salmonella*, *Shigella*, *Vibrio*, and *Yersinia*. Laboratories would also be required to submit all resulting isolates to the Department. For Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), laboratories would be required to submit Shiga toxin-positive broth and stool or an isolate. The proposed amendment was presented at the September 13, 2016 Board of Health meeting (video available at [https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/hearings-and-notices/public-meetings-archive.page](https://www1.nyc.gov/site/doh/about/hearings-and-notices/public-meetings-archive.page)) and will be considered for adoption at the December 6, 2016 meeting.

Background and Purpose
The Department and other public health agencies rely on testing isolates of enteric pathogens to detect and manage outbreaks. These isolates undergo additional testing at the Department laboratory to determine relatedness by methods such as pulsed-field gel electrophoresis. The Department combines the results of these tests with patient interviews and environmental investigations to identify, confirm, and remediate sources of food contamination. CIDTs do not yield isolates for such testing.

The Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) recommends that “all public health departments establish legal requirements for the submission of enteric bacterial disease isolates and/or clinical specimens by hospital and clinical laboratories....” APHL’s position is based in part on its finding that “[t]he rapidly increasing availability of CIDTs for foodborne pathogens poses serious challenges for public health and is threatening to derail current laboratory-based surveillance systems.” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages laboratories to culture enteric specimens with a positive CIDT result.

Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment
Anyone can submit comments on the proposed amendments by:
- **Website.** NYC rules website at [http://rules.cityofnewyork.us](http://rules.cityofnewyork.us)
- **Email.** [resolutioncomments@health.nyc.gov](mailto:resolutioncomments@health.nyc.gov)
- **Mail.** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
  Gotham Center, 42-09 28th Street, CN 31
  Long Island City, NY 11101-4132
  • **Fax.** NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 347-396-6087.

Written comments must be received on or before **5:00 p.m. on October 25, 2016.**

More Information
Full text of the proposed resolution can be found at [http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/content/reportable-diseases-conditions-and-laboratories-article-11-and-article-13-new-york-city](http://rules.cityofnewyork.us/content/reportable-diseases-conditions-and-laboratories-article-11-and-article-13-new-york-city). Questions regarding this resolution can be directed to Vasudha Reddy ([vreddy@health.nyc.gov](mailto:vreddy@health.nyc.gov)), Dr. Sharon Balter ([sbalter@health.nyc.gov](mailto:sbalter@health.nyc.gov)), or Dr. Marcelle Layton ([mlayton@health.nyc.gov](mailto:mlayton@health.nyc.gov)). Note that comments must be made via the above channels to be part of the official record considered by the Board of Health.

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