

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-notice/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.”¹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourages laboratories to culture enteric specimens with a positive CIDT result.²

Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment

<p>The Department will hold a public hearing on this and other proposed Health Code amendments from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. on October 25, 2016 at:</p> <p>NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Gotham Center, 42-09 28th St., 14th Fl., Room 14-43 Long Island City, NY 11101-4132</p>	<p>Anyone can submit comments on the proposed amendments by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website. NYC rules website at http://rules.cityofnewyork.us• Email. 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.
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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>. Questions regarding this resolution can be directed to Vasudha Reddy (vreddy@health.nyc.gov), Dr. Sharon Balter (sbalter@health.nyc.gov), or Dr. Marcelle Layton (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.

¹APHL Position Statement: Establishing Legal Requirements for the Submission of Enteric Disease Isolates and/or Clinical Material to Public Health Laboratories, Approved by Membership Feb. 2015) (https://www.aphl.org/policy/Position_Documents/FS_2015_Legal_Requirements_for_Enteric_Disease_Isolates.pdf). ²CDC. Bacterial Enteric Infections Detected by Culture-Independent Diagnostic Tests — FoodNet, United States, 2012-2014. *MMWR*. 2015;64(09):252-257) (<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6409a4.htm>).