

MLS Laboratory Update: MDH Webinar on increasing Tularemia Cases in MN, August 20th

AUGUST 11TH, 2025

Purpose of this Message:

To inform laboratorians and other healthcare providers about the upcoming MDH webinar on recent increases in tularemia cases in Minnesota that will be held Wednesday, August 20th from 12 noon to 1pm (CDT).

Action Item:

Please distribute this information widely in your networks – laboratorians, infection control staff, and providers are all encouraged to attend.

Background:

Confirmed human and animal tularemia cases have been increasing nationwide over the past several years – and Minnesota is no exception. Co-hosted by the Public Health Lab (PHL) and Infectious Disease, Epidemiology, Prevention and Control (IDEPC) Divisions, this hour webinar will be jointly presented by Aaron Barnes, MD, PhD, Maria Bye, MPH and Eric Lundquist, RBP (ABSA), MLS^{CM} (ASCP).

This is an intermediate level presentation on the epidemiology of tularemia, the laboratory identification and characterization of *Francisella tularensis*, and the biosafety requirements when working with this organism. Specifically, topics include:

- Discussing the **rise in human and animal cases of tularemia** in Minnesota over the past three years
- Identifying the **biosafety concerns for laboratorians** when working with *Francisella tularensis* specimens.
- Describing the ASM **sentinel laboratory testing algorithm** for ruling out *F. tularensis*.

Registration is available at [MDH Webinar: Tularemia Cases Increasing in MN, 2025](https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/a42ce062-b7a2-4955-b4e2-b6ee3e21a6ae@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c) (<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/a42ce062-b7a2-4955-b4e2-b6ee3e21a6ae@eb14b046-24c4-4519-8f26-b89c2159828c>).

An optional one hour of P.A.C.E. credit is available for this activity to those who pre-register. The Minnesota Department of Health is approved as a provider of continuing education programs in the clinical laboratory sciences by the ASCLS P.A.C.E. ® Program.

Additional Information:

Questions: Please contact Aaron Barnes, Emergency Preparedness and Response Laboratory Supervisor aaron.m.t.barnes@state.mn.us, 651-201-4184

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

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