

MLS Laboratory Update: MDH-PHL New Test to Determine *Candida auris* Clade by Whole Genome Sequencing on Isolates

FEBRUARY 27, 2024

Purpose of this Message:

To inform MLS laboratories that the Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) has validated and will be reporting *Candida auris* clade designation using whole genome sequencing (WGS) methods. Examples of how the test will be reported are attached. These changes will be implemented in the coming weeks.

Action Item:

Please forward this information to Laboratory staff, especially your IT and Laboratory Information System (LIS) teams, and Infection Prevention partners.

Background:

New Test: *Candida auris* Clade by Whole Genome Sequencing

Determination of clade is a way of further characterizing *C. auris* isolates. This can assist epidemiologists and infection prevention practitioners in identifying transmission of *C. auris* and may help guide prevention efforts.

Whole genome sequencing will be performed based on internal criteria on *C. auris* isolates submitted for yeast identification or confirmation and when isolated from swabs submitted for *C. auris* colonization screening. Not all isolates will be tested.

Results Reporting

MDH-PHL has validated a test for *C. auris* clade designation using WGS named “*Candida auris* Clade.” An example report from each route of submission (yeast identification/confirmation or *Candida auris* colonization) are attached. The “Clade designation” results will be reported as follows:

- Clade designation:
 - Clade I
 - Clade II
 - Clade III
 - Clade IV
 - Clade V
 - Clade VI
 - Clade undetermined

- An FDA disclaimer will appear above the test results: “This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by the MDH public health laboratory. It has not been cleared or approved by the U.S. food and drug administration 21cfr 809.30(e). The FDA has determined that such clearance is not necessary.”

Additional Information:

Antimicrobial Resistance (AR) Lab Network Webpage

The MDH-PHL is the Central Region Lab for the AR Lab Network and performs testing on carbapenem-resistant organisms (CRO) and *Candida auris*. The [AR Lab Network Central Region Lab website \(https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/arln.html\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/arln.html) contains submission forms, collection and guidance documents, supply ordering, and additional information links, which are further described here:

- ARLAB Central Region Clinical Testing and Submission Form: used for carbapenem-resistant *Acinetobacter* species (CRA), carbapenem-resistant Enterobacterales (CRE), carbapenem-resistant *Pseudomonas* species (CRP), colonization and admission screening (*Candida auris*, Carba-R, culture-based screening), yeast identification, *Streptococcus pneumoniae* serotyping, and expanded antimicrobial susceptibility testing.
- Collection, Specimen, and Handling Guidance: contains detailed guidance on how to perform specimen collection and shipment for colonization and admission screenings.
- Supplies: used to request supplies including swabs and shipping materials.

Questions: If you have any questions, please contact Paula Vagnone at 651-201-5581 or paula.snippes@state.mn.us or arlnmn@state.mn.us

Paula M. (Snippes) Vagnone, MT (ASCP)

Microbiology Unit Supervisor, AR Lab Network Central Region Coordinator

Public Health Laboratory, Minnesota Department of Health

Phone: 651-201-5581

paula.snippes@state.mn.us

THIS IS AN UPDATE FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (MDH-PHL) AND THE MINNESOTA LABORATORY SYSTEM (MLS). THIS MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO MLS LABORATORY CONTACTS SERVING MINNESOTA RESIDENTS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE.

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

THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND RESPONSE PARTNERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW THE INFORMATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT GROUPS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE.

Minnesota Laboratory System

Minnesota Department of Health, Public Health Laboratory

601 Robert St. N, St. Paul, MN 55164-0899

651-201-5200

health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/mls/index.html

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.