State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

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Conditions for Which Clinical Laboratories Shall Submit an Isolate or a Specimen to the Local Public Health Laboratory
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The California Department of Public Health recently revised the isolate and specimen submission section of Title 17 Section 2505 of the California Code of Regulations. Notable changes are:

- There are new isolate/specimen submission requirements for:
  - *Neisseria meningitidis* isolates from sterile sites
  - *Shigella* isolates
  - Zika virus immunoglobulin M (IgM)-positive sera
- A new subsection (m)(3) specifies that for certain diseases, laboratories must attempt to obtain a bacterial culture isolate.

Section 2505, subsection (m) defines the isolate and specimen submission requirements; the full text of subsection (m) is below.

(m) An isolate or a specimen as listed in this subsection shall be submitted as soon as available to the public health laboratory designated in Section 1075 for the local health jurisdiction where the health care provider is located. The following information shall be submitted with the isolate or specimen: the name, address, and the date of birth of the person from whom the isolate or specimen was obtained, the patient identification number, the isolate or specimen accession number or other unique identifier, the date the isolate or specimen was obtained from the patient, the name, address, and telephone number of the health care provider for whom such examination or test was performed, and the name, address, telephone number and the laboratory director's name of the laboratory submitting the isolate or specimen.

(1) The specimens pursuant to the requirements in (m) are:

- HIV-1/2 antigen or antibody reactive sera or plasma submitted as part of a diagnostic HIV test algorithm, as defined in section 2641.57 (see section 2505(n) for additional reporting requirements)
- Malaria positive blood film slides (see section 2505(h) for additional reporting requirements)
- Measles immunoglobulin M (IgM)-positive sera
- Shiga toxin-positive fecal broths
- Zika virus immunoglobulin M (IgM)-positive sera

(2) The isolates pursuant to the reporting requirements in (m) are:

- Drug resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* isolates (cephalosporin or azithromycin only)
- *Listeria monocytogenes* isolates
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* isolates (see section 2505(f) for additional reporting requirements)
- *Neisseria meningitidis* isolates from sterile sites
- *Salmonella* isolates (see section 2612 for additional reporting requirements)
- Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) isolates, including O157 and non-O157 strains
- *Shigella* isolates

(3) If there is a laboratory test result indicating infection with any one of the pathogens listed in (m)(2), including identification of Shiga toxin in a clinical specimen, then the laboratory must attempt to obtain a bacterial culture isolate for submission to the public health laboratory in accordance with (m)(2). The laboratory shall take steps necessary to obtain an isolate, including requesting that additional specimens be collected and sending specimens to a laboratory able to carry out bacterial culture as soon as possible.