



MICHAEL WILKENING  
Acting Director

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



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
Governor

February 18, 2015

Dear Laboratory Director,

I am writing to encourage your laboratory to participate in the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS (OA), HIV Incidence Surveillance (HIS) program. Data collected from HIS are used for local, state, and national public health HIV prevention program planning and evaluation and are critical for OA to monitor for changes in the HIV epidemic in California.

HIS is a national surveillance program funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Remnant specimens from positive HIV tests are further tested to determine whether infection occurred within the previous five months. Results from this test are combined with information from patients to generate statewide estimates on the number of new HIV infections that occurred in any given year.

To participate in HIS, your laboratory would need to send remnant HIV-positive serum from supplemental HIV tests (i.e., HIV-1/2 Type-Differentiating Immunoassay, HIV-1 Western Blot, Enzyme Immunoassay, and Nucleic Acid Test) on a quarterly or monthly basis to either the Wadsworth Laboratory in New York or the California State Laboratory Viral & Rickettsial Disease Laboratory (VRDL) in Richmond, California for HIS testing.

Your participation in this critical public health surveillance activity would very much be appreciated. If you think your laboratory might be able to participate, or you have questions about HIS, please contact Jessica Brown, HIV Surveillance Laboratory Coordinator for OA, at (916) 445-9231 or [Jessica.Brown@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Jessica.Brown@cdph.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Jessica Brown, MPH  
HIV Surveillance Laboratory Coordinator, HIV Surveillance Section  
California Department of Public Health  
Office of AIDS