

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Date: December 17, 2013

From: James Watt, M.D. M.P.H., Chief
Division of Communicable Disease Control
Center for Infectious Diseases
California Department of Public Health
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Building P, 2nd Floor
Richmond, CA 94804

RE: Laboratory Requirements from Assembly Bill 186 (2011) and Reporting Guidance

Dear Laboratory Directors,

This letter is to inform you and your laboratory of Assembly Bill 186, chaptered on October 7, 2011, which requires the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to “establish a list of communicable diseases and conditions for which clinical laboratories shall submit a culture or a specimen to the local public health laboratory.” This list, enclosed, has been added to California Code of Regulations, Title 17 Section 2505(1) on January 1, 2014.

Saving and forwarding these specimens and cultures to public health will improve recognition and response to diseases and outbreaks in California. Some of the specimens or cultures listed were previously required and only listed here for completeness; some are new but already being submitted voluntarily by many laboratories in the past few years. We appreciate your assistance with implementing this list to improve public health in California.

Also enclosed is guidance for laboratories on which laboratory results are reportable to meet the requirement of the reportable diseases listed in the California Code of Regulations Title 17, Section 2505. The CDPH Division of Communicable Disease Control has compiled the enclosed list of laboratory testing results for specified diseases in Section 2505 list (e)(2) that should be reported to local health departments.

The third enclosed document is a guidance to clarify federal requirements for laboratories to report select agents to state and local public health authorities, as per Section 2505 list (e)(1).

These documents are shared with local Health Officers and public health departments so that all involved parties are appropriately informed. For questions about these documents, please contact your local public health department.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Watt", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

James Watt, M.D., M.P.H.