



September 6, 2017

Valued Medical Microbiology Partners and Clients:

For many years the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory (SDPHL) has been a hub for virologic testing in South Dakota. The SDPHL virology program currently offers over 40 different tests that include culture, serology, and molecular analysis. The SDPHL maintains the capability and capacity to provide surveillance and outbreak testing for numerous viruses including influenza, measles, mumps, West Nile virus, and special pathogens like the viruses that cause Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

The SDPHL knows first-hand how critical our virology program is to the health of all South Dakotans. In consultation with the South Dakota Department of Health, Office of Disease Prevention Services (ODPS), South Dakota's State Epidemiologist, and medical microbiology clients throughout our state, a comprehensive review of virologic testing services was recently performed at the SDPHL. Based on this review, the SDPHL will make changes to our test menu over the next few months. Rest assured that the test menu changes will not impact the SDPHL's ability to provide critical public health testing for HIV, hepatitis, measles, mumps, rubella, West Nile virus, influenza, and other viral agents of public health concern. The changes made to virologic testing at the SDPHL will allow us to better serve our healthcare partners and clients throughout South Dakota.

Over the next few weeks, you will receive a series of **LAB ALERTS** that define changes in virologic testing at the SDPHL. If you have any questions or concerns about these changes, please contact the SDPHL at (605)773-3368. Please distribute this letter to others in your facility that may need this information.

Thank you,

Tim Southern, PhD, D(ABMM)