



December 1, 2023

Dear Valued Provider,

The Alaska State Virology Laboratory (ASVL) is pleased to share some significant updates to our testing menu, effective immediately.

- **Roche ePlex for Respiratory Pathogens Test:**

ASVL now offers the Roche ePlex nucleic acid diagnostic test, designed to detect a range of respiratory pathogens. The test covers influenza A H1-2009, influenza A H3, influenza B, Sars-CoV-2, RSV A, RSV B, parainfluenza virus (types 1 through 4), adenovirus, human rhinovirus/enterovirus, human metapneumovirus, undifferentiated coronavirus (229E, HKU1, NL63, OC43), *Chlamydia pneumoniae*, and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*. The preferred specimen type for this test is a nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media.

**Fees may be associated with this test. Contact the laboratory for further information.*

- **Hepatitis B Virus Testing Panel Update:**

Aligning with the national guidelines, ASVL's hepatitis B screening panel now includes hepatitis B core antibody, hepatitis B surface antibody, and hepatitis B surface antigen. Reactive (positive) hepatitis B surface antigen tests will be confirmed and automatically reflexed to hepatitis B core IgM antibody testing. Additionally, ASVL will continue to offer a peri-natal panel (hepatitis B surface antigen and hepatitis B surface antibody) for children under 2 years of age.

- **Discontinuation of Testing as of 12/31/2023**

As of December 31, 2023, ASVL will discontinue the following tests:

- Herpes Simplex Virus PCR
- Hepatitis C virus genotype

However, ASVL will continue to perform herpes simplex virus antibody testing and provide hepatitis C virus antibody screening with reflexing to hepatitis C viral load testing if the antibody is positive.

- **Updates to the Test Directory and Test Request Form:**

The Alaska State Public Health Laboratory Test Directory and the appropriate Fairbanks Virology Test Request forms have been revised to reflect these changes. Notably, the test request form now includes a section to gather information on a patient's pregnancy status for epidemiological purposes.

We appreciate your ongoing support in our mission to promote public health in Alaska. If you have any questions or require further clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Thank you,

Nisha Fowler, MT (ASCP)
Laboratory Manager
Alaska State Virology Laboratory

12/4/23

Jayme Parker, PhD, HCLD(ABB)
CLIA Director
Alaska State Public Health Laboratories