THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Health and Social Services

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Dear Health Care Provider,

In April 2017, the World Health Organization (WHO) convened a Guideline Development Group (GDG) meeting to develop policy guidelines on the treatment of confirmed rifampin-susceptible, isoniazid-resistant tuberculosis (INHr-TB). In patients with confirmed INHr-TB, treatment with rifampin, ethambutol, pyrazinamide (PZA), and **levofloxacin** (LVX) is recommended for a duration of 6 months. The Alaska TB Program requests LVX susceptibility testing when a patient is resistant to INH or has issues with INH therapy. Previously, this testing has been referred to an out-of-state reference laboratory resulting in a turn-around-time (TAT) of more than one month.

In order to better serve our Alaskan communities suffering from tuberculosis, the Alaska State Public Health Laboratories (ASPHL) in Anchorage will now be offering LVX testing. Effective 4/4/2022, streptomycin susceptibility testing on *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex isolates will be replaced by **levofloxacin** at the critical concentration of 1.0 µg/mL. Testing will be performed on the MGIT 960 platform, with an anticipated TAT of 8-12 days. Streptomycin testing can be performed for any isolate upon request by the provider.

Thank you,

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