

MLS Laboratory Update: Discontinuation of serology testing for *Bordetella pertussis*

DECEMBER 8, 2025

Purpose of this Message:

To notify clinical laboratory partners that the Minnesota Department of Health-Public Health Laboratory (MDH-PHL) will no longer offer testing for antibodies to *Bordetella pertussis* toxin, as of December 15, 2025.

Action Item:

Inform all applicable personnel in your facility that MDH-PHL will not be accepting serology specimens for *Bordetella pertussis* Anti-Pertussis toxin IgG as of December 15, 2025.

Background:

Bordetella pertussis serology can be a useful laboratory tool to identify pertussis cases long after the bacterium is no longer detectable by culture or PCR. Serology is the method of choice when a patient has a persistent cough for more than three weeks, because culture and PCR are less reliable at those times. Serologic testing for pertussis toxin has been offered at MDH-PHL since 2012, together with culture and PCR-based testing.

With commercial labs able to provide serologic testing, MDH-PHL will focus on molecular detection of *Bordetella spp.*, including characterization of isolates for drug susceptibility. MDH-PHL will continue to offer molecular detection of *Bordetella spp.* by PCR. Please refer to the IDL Test Catalog for more details on this testing.

(<https://labinventory.web.health.state.mn.us/phl/lab-test-search#/>)

More information about pertussis can be found at:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/pertussis/index.html>

Questions:

For specimen or assay-specific questions, please contact:

Anna K. Strain, Ph.D., Infectious Disease Laboratory Manager, at Anna.Strain@state.mn.us OR [\(651-201-5035\)](tel:651-201-5035)

OR the MN_LabSystem inbox at health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us

For case reporting or disease information:

Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Prevention, and Control Division at 651-201-5414

Thank you for your partnership with disease surveillance efforts in Minnesota.

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PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND RESPONSE PARTNERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW THE INFORMATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT GROUPS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE.

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To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.