



STATE HYGIENIC LABORATORY

Iowa's Environmental and
Public Health Laboratory

www.uhl.uiowa.edu

Dear Microbiology Laboratorian(s):

After 12 years, the state of Iowa is discontinuing the Antibiotic Resistance Surveillance Program as of January 1, 2011. Your participation in this program has been a valuable asset in tracking the emerging antibiotic resistance of certain organisms from invasive sites. While emerging antibiotic resistance is still an important issue, we can no longer support this statewide effort.

Cessation of this program affects **only** the following organisms from invasive sites:

Streptococcus pneumoniae

Enterococcus species

Streptococcus pyogenes (Group A beta Strep)

MRSA

This means you no longer need to submit these isolates to the Hygienic Lab for testing.

We will continue to accept and test any VISA or VRSA isolate that you have regardless of the specimen type from which it was obtained. Also, please remember to continue to call IDPH with the case reports for VISA/VRSA. The protocol for submitting these isolates can be found in the [archives of the Notes from Micro section of the Sentinel Lab page on the Hygienic Lab's website](#).

You do need to continue to submit to the Hygienic Laboratory all invasive isolates of *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Neisseria meningitidis* for serotyping. We will confirm the identification as well as perform serotyping on these organisms of public health significance. It is also critical that we obtain all of these isolates to help identify clusters or outbreaks of *Neisseria meningitidis* through PFGE. Until the test request form can be modified, please select "isolate identification" as your test requested, complete the relevant isolate information box and write on the form that this isolate is for serotyping. Please check the "public health significance" box so that no charge is passed for the identification/serotyping of these isolates since it is to satisfy the Administrative Code.

Removal of the four organisms listed above from the Administrative Code for state reportable diseases will lag behind cessation of the program. Please print this letter as proof to inspectors that you are not out of compliance if you stop submitting these isolates as of January 1, 2011.

Please continue to contact us with any questions you may have regarding antibiotic susceptibility testing or antibiotic resistance. The Hygienic Laboratory will remain a resource to answer questions. We will also continue to submit troublesome isolates to CDC for testing when necessary.

We thank you for your participation in this important initiative and hope you will continue to use the Hygienic Lab as resource for susceptibility testing questions and verification of VISA/VRSA.

Sincerely,

Mary DeMartino, BS, MT(ASCP)SM

Michael Pentella, PhD, D(ABMM)