

Good afternoon,

Due to a technical error, the Statewide Laboratory Advisory Meeting was not recorded for April. Attached is a brief synopsis of the April meeting highlighting relevant announcements and DHHS updates. If you have any additional questions, please let me know. I apologize for any inconvenience.

1. Laboratory topics:

- a. Alison Keyser-Metobo, DHHS, wishes to remind all labs to submit all isolates of invasive *N. meningitidis* and *H. influenzae* to NPHL.
- b. Similarly, NPHL would like to remind all labs to submit isolates of *Legionella spp.* if cultured and identified in your laboratory.
- c. The NE-DHHS released a *C. auris* [HAN](#) on March 26th.
 - i. There have been 5 clinical cases of *C. auris* in Nebraska.
 - ii. Labs are advised that some identification systems might misidentify *C. auris* ([see attached](#)).
 - iii. Laboratories should submit suspected or confirmed isolates of *C. auris* to the NPHL.
 - iv. The CDC has provided [recommendations](#) when working with suspected or confirmed *C. auris* in the laboratory.
 1. Including an [EPA-approved list of disinfectants](#).
 - v. The NE-DHHS has approved colonization screening in different facilities around the state. This testing is being done at the regional laboratory in Minnesota should you receive a call about the results.
- d. The exceptions list for possible carbapenem-producing organisms has been expanded to include *Klebsiella aerogenes*, which are non-susceptible to imipenem but susceptible to ertapenem and meropenem.
 - i. This is the same rule for *Proteus spp.*, *Providencia spp.*, and *Morganella morganii*.
 - ii. The [supplemental form](#) and the [submission guidelines](#) have been edited to reflect this change.

2. DHHS Section updates:

- a. Please refer to the DHHS Weekly Surveillance Report for up-to-date information on influenza and other respiratory diseases.
- b. A dairy worker in Texas tested positive for highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) A(H5N1).
 - i. **Notify DHHS for positive influenza A detection with no sub-type.**
 - ii. **Forward specimens to NPHL.**
- c. There has been an increase in positive norovirus testing at Bryan LGH in Lincoln.

3. NPHL Training:

- a. LPX has been sent to labs participating.
- b. Reminder to call all suspected BT organisms to the 24/7 emergency pager: **(402) 888-5588**.
- c. We are putting together the NPHL Challenge set. We expect to ship before the end of April.

The next meeting (on the 2nd Monday of each month) will be on Monday, May 13th, at 12pm / 11am MT.