
Date: February 10, 2016

To: CLS Microbiology Manager
DynaLIFEDX Diagnostic Laboratory Services Microbiology Manager
Red Deer Regional Hospital Microbiology Supervisor
St. Mary's Hospital Microbiology Laboratory Supervisor

From: Provincial Laboratory for Public Health (ProvLab)

Re: ProvLab Implementation of *Campylobacter jejuni* Surveillance for FoodNet

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE**Key Message:**

- Effective February 16, 2016, ProvLab in collaboration with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services (AHS) and FoodNet Canada (Public Health Agency of Canada) will begin surveillance typing of *Campylobacter jejuni* isolates associated with cases arising in the Alberta FoodNet sentinel surveillance sites.
- The four laboratories which will be involved in submitting *Campylobacter jejuni* isolates for FoodNet surveillance are: Calgary Laboratory Services, Red Deer Regional Hospital Laboratory, DynaLIFEDX Diagnostics Laboratory and St. Mary's Hospital Laboratory in Camrose.

Why this is important:

FoodNet Canada is a multi-partner initiative facilitated by the Public Health Agency of Canada. It supports activities that will reduce the burden of enteric disease through comprehensive sentinel site surveillance implemented through local public health units and provincial health laboratories. The initiative will result in effective evaluation and development of policies on the safety of food and water.

ProvLab is preparing to implement the surveillance typing for *Campylobacter jejuni* by Comparative Genomic Fingerprinting (CGF) as part of the FoodNet project. Currently ProvLab is not routinely receiving *Campylobacter* isolates from Microbiology laboratories and therefore a new process for submission of isolates from the four submitter laboratories has been developed in conjunction with ProvLab, AHS Environmental Public Health and the four submitter laboratories.

Action Required:

Effective February 16, 2016, submit *Campylobacter jejuni* isolates identified as FoodNet samples to Provlab using the following process:

1. AHS Environmental Public Health emails a daily line list (Monday – Friday) to each laboratory with

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a *Campylobacter jejuni* isolate from a FoodNet case. The line list will include the following information:

- Disease Incident (DI) #
 - Date Reported
 - Last name, First name
 - PHN/ULI
 - Collection date
 - Laboratory Accession Number.
2. The submitter laboratory submits a pure culture of the isolate on a charcoal swab or M40 swab to ProvLab and a ProvLab Reference Isolate and Surveillance Requisition with *Campylobacter* FoodNet marked off on the requisition.
 3. Swab and requisition are sent to ProvLab using the regular ProvLab submission route of each laboratory.
 4. Laboratories may batch submission of *Campylobacter* swabs and submit weekly. Laboratories choosing to batch submissions should submit specimens on either Monday or Tuesday each week.

Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:

- Dr. Linda Chui, Program Leader, ProvLab 780-407-8951 or Linda.Chui@ahs.ca
- Donna Burton, Manager, ProvLab 780-407-8977 or Donna.Burton@ahs.ca

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:

Dr. Graham Tipples, Medical / Scientific Director, ProvLab