

**Date:** November 24/16  
**To:** South Zone All Physician/Physician Offices, Continuing Care Facilities/ Sexual Health Clinic/Public Health, SZE Nursing Units, South Zone Labs All Staff  
**From:** AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory  
**Re:** South Zone East Laboratory Expansion – Microbiology Service Transition Timelines

---

## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

---

### Key Messages:

- Microbiology sample transition from Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory (MHDL) to Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory (MHRH) will begin December 5/16 in a phased in approach until December 19/16.
- Samples will continue to be picked up by Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory Couriers Monday to Friday. Alternate arrangements are underway for weekends.

Samples will be processed at MHRH as of the following dates:

December 5/16	December 12/16	December 15/16	December 19/16	
Urine Cultures	Vaginal specimens for Bacterial vaginosis/Yeast	Respiratory samples (Throat Cultures, Sputum, etc...)	Semen for Post Vasectomy/Semen for Infertility Samples	
Stool Specimens (C&S, Cryptosporidium/Giardia)	Genital Cultures	Wound Cultures		
	Eye Cultures	Fluid Cultures		
	Ear Cultures			MRSA/VRE
				Mouth Culture
				Nasal Culture

### Why this is important:

- Information/questions should be directed to the appropriate site
- Reports will change to AHS format

### Action Required:

- Collect samples as per the Guide to Lab Services
- Provincial sample acceptance standards apply
- Continue to use the Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory Requisition for ordering collection supplies
- Use the South Zone Microbiology Requisition

### Rationale:

- As microbiology testing is transitioning from the Medicine Hat Diagnostic Laboratory (MHDL) to the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH) laboratory, a phased transition of testing and samples is planned as above. This will optimize logistics and provide opportunity for a smooth and seamless transition with little or no adverse impact on delivery of clinical services.

---

**Inquiries and feedback may be directed to:**

- Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Laboratory Client Services (403) 529-8919
- Michele Claypool Tech II, MHRH Microbiology [michele.claypool@ahs.ca](mailto:michele.claypool@ahs.ca)

**This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:**

- Dr. Julio Silva, AHS Zone Clinical Department Head (Co-Lead) Laboratory Medicine, South Zone
- Dorothy Ward, South Zone Laboratory Director