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November 1, 2019

Dear Laboratory Colleagues,

On September 13, 2019, the California Department of Public Health notified all CA laboratories of changes and updates to Title 17, section 2505, of the CA Code of Regulations, which went into effect on October 1, 2019. This letter is to inform you of specific local requirements for the report of Acid-Fast Bacillus (AFB) and Tuberculosis in Los Angeles County and which are effective immediately.

**In addition to sending reports electronically via the CA State electronic reporting system, faxed submissions are still required for:**

- Positive AFB smear reports
- Positive AFB culture reports
- *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex drug susceptibility reports
- Final culture results for any specimen that was previously reported to have an AFB positive smear or to have growth of an AFB organism, regardless of whether the final culture result is negative, or the final organism is identified as atypical *Mycobacterium* spp.

The above reports should be faxed to the Tuberculosis Control Program at: (213) 749-0926.

**Only positive IGRA reports should be reported via the electronic laboratory reporting mechanism without the need for a faxed copy.**

Los Angeles County is developing capacity to receive and manage electronic laboratory reports for Acid-Fast Bacillus (AFB) and Tuberculosis and will notify laboratories when faxed reports are no longer required. If you have any questions, please call our program, (213) 745-0800. Thank you for your assistance with the complete reporting of Tuberculosis laboratory data. We value your partnership in the timely detection of Tuberculosis cases in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alicia H. Chang', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alicia H. Chang, MD MS

Medical Director, Tuberculosis Control Program