

# PHSA Laboratories

Public Health Microbiology &amp; Reference Laboratory

## Memorandum

**DATE**            **October 7, 2009**

**TO**                **All Health Authority CD EHO's, Infection Control Practitioners, Health Canada, Corrections Canada, Yukon Communicable Disease**

**CC**                **Dr. Judith Isaac-Renton, Joe Fung, Yin Chang**

**FROM**           **BCCDC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory, PHSA Laboratories Environmental Microbiology Program**

**SUBJECT**        **New Requirements for GI Outbreak Notification Process and Requisitions**

In efforts to make our Gastrointestinal (GI) Outbreak testing process more efficient, we will be instituting changes to the process of how the laboratory is notified of GI outbreaks. Effective immediately, we require GI Outbreaks to be reported to the BCCDC Public Health and Microbiology Reference Laboratory (PHMRL) via secured fax notification system, rather than by telephone. The new GI Outbreak Fax number is **(604) 707-2607**.

**Forms:** A new [Gastrointestinal Disease Outbreak Notification Fax Form](#) has been created to gather identical information previously collected during the initial telephone call. However, this form will require the outbreak contact person to assign the Outbreak Identifier, rather than the GI Outbreak Coordinator at the PHMRL. By enabling the outbreak contact to assign the Outbreak Identifier, the process of submitting outbreak samples to the PHMRL for testing will be expedited. The new Gastrointestinal Disease Outbreak Notification Fax Form also incorporates a section to notify the PHMRL of multiple samples coming for a single outbreak. The current Multiple Specimen Submission Form (HLTH 1862) will no longer be in use. We have also created a new [Gastrointestinal Disease Outbreak Requisition Form](#) for samples which will replace the current requisition (HLTH 1861). These new forms can be easily located on our new website [www.phsa.ca/bccdcpublichealthlab](http://www.phsa.ca/bccdcpublichealthlab).

**Kits:** There have also been changes made to the GI Outbreak Kits and to the process of how they are ordered. Each outbreak kit now contains a notification form, six sterile vials for feces, two sterile vials for vomitus, eight biohazard bags and eight requisition forms. These can be ordered using the [Sample Container Outfit Order Form](#) which can be located on the web under Testing & Requisitions (above).

There are quite a few changes which we hope will improve our laboratory testing services for GI Outbreaks. Please contact me at (604) 707-2611 with any questions.

Sincerely,  
Julie Wong  
Food Poisoning and GI Outbreak Coordinator  
BCCDC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Laboratory

