



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Patsy A. Hardy, FACHE, MSN, MBA
Cabinet Secretary

Date: September 1, 2009

Notification to Healthcare Providers, Healthcare Facilities and Public Health Partners Regarding Pertussis PCR Testing at West Virginia Office of Laboratory Services (OLS)

The West Virginia OLS is temporarily suspending PCR screening for *Bordetella pertussis*. This decision has been made due to the continued failure of the internal negative control used as quality assurance for assay performance. Six months ago the vendor, Cepheid was required by the FDA to make changes to the testing reagent configuration because this product is an ASR for research use. We are continuing to pursue resolving the problem with Cepheid and researching other options for test reagents. The OLS will continue performing culture testing for pertussis which is the gold standard.

The OLS is working very hard to fix this issue and we appreciate your understanding and patience. Please feel free to contact us at 304-558-3530 should you have any questions regarding this notification.

BUREAU FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
OFFICE OF LABORATORY SERVICES
167 11th Avenue
South Charleston, West Virginia 25303-1134

Phone: (304) 558-3530

FAX: (304) 558-2006