

MLS Laboratory Update: MDH Investigating *Paraburkholderia fungorum*

OCTOBER 1ST, 2024

Purpose of this Message:

To request that MLS partners perform a 12-month look back for any *Paraburkholderia fungorum* or *Paraburkholderia* sp. that they may have identified in their laboratories.

Action Item:

Please perform a 12-month look-back in your microbiology laboratory data to find any *Paraburkholderia fungorum* or *Paraburkholderia* sp. isolates that may have been identified by your laboratory and reply to this email if you have detected this organism. Please provide a contact for MDH to call back to collect more information.

Background:

MDH is investigating an increase in submitted isolates identified as *Paraburkholderia fungorum* or *Paraburkholderia* sp. MDH is aware of 15 *P. fungorum* or *Paraburkholderia* sp. that have been isolated in Minnesota since September 2023. Seven of the isolates were initially submitted to MDH-PHL to rule out *Burkholderia mallei* and *Burkholderia pseudomallei* and subsequently identified as *Paraburkholderia fungorum* at MDH-PHL by 16S ribosomal DNA sequencing. All were detected in blood cultures from patients where medical record reviews indicate that they may not have had true infection with the organism. Prior to 2023, *P. fungorum* had only been identified once at MDH-PHL.

Paraburkholderia were split from the *Burkholderia* genera in 2016. *Paraburkholderia* is associated primarily with environmental species, while *Burkholderia* are typically species clinically relevant to humans.

If your laboratory has identified *P. fungorum* or *Paraburkholderia* sp. in the last year, please reply to this email. We will respond to gather additional information about collection date, source, etc.

Thank you for assisting us in this investigation.

Questions:

Please contact:

Paula Snippes Vagnone

Microbiology Supervisor, Infectious Disease Laboratory

paula.snippes@state.mn.us

651-201-5581

THIS IS AN UPDATE FROM THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH – PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY (MDH-PHL) AND THE MINNESOTA LABORATORY SYSTEM (MLS). THIS MESSAGE IS BEING SENT TO MLS LABORATORY CONTACTS SERVING MINNESOTA RESIDENTS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO REPLY TO THIS MESSAGE.

PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO ALL APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL WITHIN YOUR INSTITUTION AND HEALTH SYSTEM

THE CONTENT OF THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE PERSONNEL AND RESPONSE PARTNERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW THE INFORMATION TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES. IT IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY. DO NOT DISTRIBUTE BEYOND THE INTENDED RECIPIENT GROUPS AS DESCRIBED IN THIS MESSAGE.

Minnesota Laboratory System
Minnesota Department of Health, Public Health Laboratory
601 Robert St. N, St. Paul, MN 55164-0899
651-201-5200

health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/mls/index.html

To obtain this information in a different format, call: 651-201-5200.