



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

**Department of
Health and Social Services**

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Public Health Laboratories

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April 24, 2014

IMPORTANT NOTICE: SPECIMEN LABELING

Valued Provider,

The Alaska State Public Health Laboratories in Anchorage and in Fairbanks are standardizing specimen labeling criteria. As of June 1, 2014, two patient identifiers will be required both on the specimen **and** on the test requisition. This would include the patient's first and last name (or confidential patient identifier), and either the date of birth, **or** unique medical record number. The identifiers on the specimen must match the identifiers on the test requisition exactly.

We strongly encourage the use of pre-printed labels for both the requisition and the specimen. Handwritten documentation is acceptable, but must be legible.

Specimens received after June 1st, which do not have two patient identifiers will be rejected as "unsatisfactory." If you do not currently include two patient identifiers on your specimen labels or test requisitions, you will be contacted over the next several weeks as we implement this change.

Updated Requisition and the Test Directory may be found here:

<http://dhss.alaska.gov/dph/Labs/Pages/publications/default.aspx>

If you have any questions please contact the Clinical Microbiology Lab Manager, Jennifer Eastman, at 907-334-2100 or Virology Lab Manager, Bonnie Bond, at 907-371-1000.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Bonnie Bond in cursive.

Bonnie Bond, MS
Virology Lab Manager

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Eastman in cursive.

Jennifer Eastman, PhD
Clinical Microbiology Lab Manager