



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of
Health and Social Services

DIVISION of PUBLIC HEALTH
State Virology Laboratory

931 Sheenjek Drive
Fairbanks, Alaska 99775
Main: 907.371-1000
Fax: 907.474-4036

12/21/2015

Dear Health Care Providers:

We are providing this notification to inform you that all human viral pathogen surveillance services provided by the Alaska State Virology Laboratory will be performed free-of-charge as part of a limited duration pilot project as we introduce new capabilities. We apologize for any confusion created by previous notifications regarding a fee-for-service schedule and appreciate your patience as we determine the best practices to preserve continuity of our services in the current budget climate.

ASVL has validated the GenMark™ Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) genotyping assay. In order to determine the demand for this test, HCV genotyping will be available as a reflex-test when HCV antibody (HCV Ab) testing is positive. Additionally, HCV genotyping will be available as a stand-alone test if a previously performed HCV Ab test is positive. HCV genotyping, as performed at ASVL, will be able to discern HCV types 1a, 1b, 2a/c, 2b, 3, 4, 5, and 6 once HCV RNA (qualitative) has been assessed.

Possible outcomes of the HCV genotyping test are summarized in the table below:

Test	Result	Method
HCV RNA, Qualitative	Detected	PCR
HCV RNA, Qualitative	Detected*	PCR
HCV RNA, Qualitative	Detected**	PCR
HCV RNA, Qualitative	Not Detected***	PCR
HCV RNA, Qualitative	Indeterminate****	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 1, Subtype 1a	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 1, Subtype 1b	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 2, Subtype 2a/c	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 2, Subtype 2b	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 3	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 4	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 5	PCR
HCV Genotype	Type 6	PCR
*HCV RNA is detected, but a genotype cannot be determined due to low virus titers (<1000 IU/mL)		
**HCV RNA is detected, but a distinct genotype could not be discerned because a novel or partial genotype/subtype pattern is detected. Since this may be associated with improper handling, a new specimen is recommended.		
***HCV RNA could not be detected due to absence of RNA or low virus titers (<100 IU/mL)		
****Unable to determine the presence or absence of HCV RNA. A new specimen is recommended.		

As always, I'm available to field any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Jayme Parker, Laboratory Manager

(907) 371-1005