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**Notice: Public Health Laboratory Fee
Changes – Action may be needed**

February 21, 2014

Dear Oregon State Public Health Laboratory Client,

The fees we charge for certain laboratory tests will be changing on March 1, 2014. The effective date begins with dates of collection starting March 1. We notified our clients of these changes in December 2013 and our Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs) have been amended to align our fees with the August 2013 Division of Medical Assistance Programs (DMAP) Fee Schedule. A simplified look at the OSPHL fees is included with this letter. A link to the complete DMAP fee schedule for laboratory services is provided at the end of this letter under Resources.

These fee changes **do** apply to:

- Tests for which your facility currently receives an invoice from the OSPHL and you pay us directly or we bill Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) for testing, *unless* a fee waiver or reduced fee has been approved (see below)

These fee changes **do not** apply to:

- Tests that are performed for public health activities (Examples: outbreak investigations, disease surveillance, isolates required by law, rabies tests).
- Tests for which your facility does not currently receive an invoice from the OSPHL (Examples: testing paid for by State General Fund or charged directly to Federal grant-funded programs such as HIV, STD, Emerging Infections, TB, and Public Health Preparedness).

Public agencies and private non-profit organizations can still apply for waived or reduced testing fees as provided in OAR 333-024-0240 (1)(b): “Public and private non-profit agencies may apply for a reduction or waiver of the test fees...” This portion of the OARs has not changed, but it may be more important to your facility now. A link to the complete OAR is provided below. We plan to offer reduced rates for certain tests. The reduced rates we offer will be similar to the current testing fees while the OSPHL is assessing the actual financial impact of the changes.

Please submit a request for waived or reduced fees if your facility:

- Is a public agency or private non-profit organization, and
- Currently receives testing for which test costs are waived, and/or
- Is interested in waived or reduced fees as a result of the revised test fees.

Each request for waived or reduced fees must contain certain specific information. We have developed a template letter you may use for this purpose, which includes each of the required components for the request. The template is included and will be posted on our website soon.

Changing our fee structure will help us assure OSPHL's continued financial stability and high level of service to our clients. We need to recover the actual costs of the testing we perform. Our communicable disease testing fees have not been changed since 1998, despite significant increases in operating costs.

Both of the documents included with this notice will be posted on our website soon at: <http://public.health.oregon.gov/LABORATORYSERVICES/Pages/index.aspx>. You may contact Sarah Humphrey, OSPHL Client Services Coordinator, with questions about this notice. She can be reached by phone at 503-693-4124 or e-mail at sarah.m.humphrey@state.or.us. Thank you for your continued partnership with the OSPHL.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Skeels, PhD, MPH, SM(ASCP)
Director
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

Resources:

OSPHL Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs):

http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/Documents/OSPHL%20PROPOSED%20text_FINAL.pdf

DMAP Fee Schedule, Laboratory Codes:

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/LaboratoryServices/Documents/dmap-fees.pdf>