



Bulletin No. 15

June 27, 1980

Reduction in Laboratory Services

Due to mandated reductions in the FY '81 operating budget for the Section of Laboratories and resulting reduction in personnel in each of the three regional laboratories, it is necessary to curtail the clinical microbiology and immunohematology laboratory services performed by the Southeastern (Juneau), Southcentral (Anchorage) and Northern (Fairbanks) Regional Laboratories. This action is necessary to stay within the departmental budgetary restraints placed upon the laboratories.

A. Effective July 1, 1980, the three Regional Laboratories will no longer accept primary specimens for diagnostic clinical microbiology as detailed below. The Regional Laboratories will accept bacterial isolates for identification and reference cultures from hospitals and clinic laboratories.

Primary specimens that will not be accepted are:

1. Urine specimens for bacterial count, predominating organism and/or antibiotic sensitivity studies.
2. Wound, skin, pleural and body fluid specimens for bacterial identification and antibiotic sensitivity.
3. Nasopharyngeal and eye or ear cultures except in cases of suspected pertussis, diphtheria, gonorrhoea or streptococcus infections.
4. Primary animal specimens for diagnostic clinical microbiology except in cases of suspected zoonotic diseases transmissible to man.

Primary specimens relating to the state VD, tuberculosis, communicable disease control, streptococcus surveillance control, epidemiology and rabies control will continue to be accepted. The regional laboratories will continue to provide reference, consultation and training services to all local laboratories.

B. Effective July 1, 1980, the three Regional Laboratories will discontinue the immunohematology services covering ABO bloodtyping and RH studies. The ABO RH services will no longer be performed either as a routine or on special request on any specimen.

As the discontinued services are available in a majority of the local laboratories, the Section of Laboratories will be glad to work with these laboratories to insure a smooth transition and maintenance of quality control.

If there are any questions about the above changes, please feel free to contact Dean Tirador, Director of Public Health (465-3090) or John Middaugh, M.D., Medical Epidemiologist (272-7534).

NOTE: The following is a correction of population figures as quoted in Bulletin #5 for week ending March 14, 1980. Please tear off on dotted line and affix.

Since only a portion of all reportable illnesses are reported, these figures represent trends rather than actual incidence. More complete reporting of cases to the Department of Health and Social Services will result in more accurate statistics. The above figures represent both military and civilian reporting. Population figures below include both military and civilian personnel and were obtained from the Alaska Labor Department:

Total Population	Region	1977	1978
	Southeastern	53,162	54,400
	Southcentral	284,321	273,700
	Northern	73,728	88,300
	Total	411,211	416,400