

GD-113-PHS-EDC: Guidelines for Submission of Isolates for *Shigella spp.* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

Guidelines for Submission of Isolates for *Shigella spp.* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*

This document advises clinical laboratories and the public that the Arizona Department of Health Services (Department) will not be enforcing the isolate-submission requirements in Arizona Administrative Code (A.A.C.) R9-6-204 and Table 3, as written, for *Shigella spp.* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*.

A.A.C. Title 9, Chapter 6, Article 2 specifies requirements for communicable disease and infestation reporting. A.A.C. R9-6-204 and Table 3 specify requirements for reporting by clinical laboratories. A.A.C. R9-6-204 requires the “director of a clinical laboratory that obtains a test result described in Table 3 or that receives a specimen for detection of an infectious agent or toxin listed in Table 3 [to] either personally or through a representative, submit a report and, if applicable, an isolate or a specimen to the Department within the time limitation and as specified in Table 3 and subsection (B) or (C).”

Table 3 in 9 A.A.C. 6, Article 2 requires the submission of “an isolate of the organism for each positive culture [of *Shigella spp.* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*] to the Arizona State Laboratory at least once each week, as applicable.” This requirement allows for the Arizona State Laboratory to conduct further analysis of the isolates to aid in epidemiological investigations, and can be vital to be able to connect one case with another.

However, submission of the large number of isolates of *Shigella spp.* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* currently being received places an undue burden on clinical laboratories and the Department. Additionally, further analyses of these isolates provide limited, if any, public health benefit. To reduce the burden on clinical laboratories and the Department, the Department will no longer be enforcing the isolate-submission requirements in A.A.C. R9-6-204 and Table 3 for *Shigella spp.* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae* as written. Instead, the Department will only require the submission of a *Shigella spp.* or *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolate upon the request of the Department, which will occur only when there is a public health benefit to be gained from further analysis of the isolate.