Dear Colleagues:

This communication is to inform you of a delay in testing and results reporting from the Division of Tuberculosis Elimination (DTBE) Molecular Detection of Drug Resistance (MDDR) service and the temporary cessation of new whole genome sequencing activities. On Friday, July 11, 2014, CDC implemented a moratorium on the movement of biological material from biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) or BSL-4 facilities in any laboratory at CDC. Due to this moratorium, the DTBE Laboratory Branch is temporarily unable to transfer crude DNA preparations from isolates of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) or clinical sediments from our BSL-3 into our BSL-2 laboratory space where unidirectional workflow for molecular testing is performed.

CDC has established a high-level working group that is tasked with developing a review process for laboratories to resume activities that involve the transfer of biological materials from BSL-3. DTBE Laboratory Branch will be working to provide the necessary documentation and associated data to this working group with the expectation that our clinical service will be brought back on-line as quickly as possible. In the interim, we will continue to accept isolates of MTBC for growth-based drug susceptibility testing but are requesting that TB programs and public health laboratories temporarily suspend new requests for MDDR.

Our Laboratory Branch, in partnership with the public health laboratory system, serves a critical role in the rapid detection of drug resistance to provide information needed for the establishment of effective regimens for the treatment of the most complex TB cases. We share your concern regarding this temporary situation. We will notify you as soon as our services are fully functional. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Angela Starks, Laboratory Branch Chief (astarks@cdc.gov, 404-639-3205).

Sincerely,

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