



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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September 22, 2008

Dear Laboratory Director:

At the end of November 2007, I asked you to help with a new state initiative to evaluate methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) infections in our state. Beginning December 17, 2007, you were asked to report cases of invasive MRSA to the Washington State Department of Health.

As of September 2008, laboratory reporting of invasive MRSA to the Washington State Department of Health will be discontinued until further notice. We will use data from your reports of invasive MRSA to better understand the impact of MRSA infections in this state and to guide our next steps in deciding the most effective, efficient ways to track and prevent these infections.

We greatly appreciate your cooperation and dedication to this project. We recognize you and your staff spent valuable time and energy to help us gather this information—I sincerely appreciate that. If you have questions about the invasive MRSA reporting project, please contact either Dr. Marcia Goldoft, Acting State Epidemiologist, at 206-418-5433 or marcia.goldoft@doh.wa.gov; or Dr. Romesh Gautom, Washington State Public Health Laboratories Director, at 206-418-5450 or romesh.gautom@doh.wa.gov.

Thank you for your work and support of this project.

Sincerely,

Mary C. Selecky
Secretary

cc: Dr. Maxine Hayes, Department of Health
Dr. Jude Van Buren, Department of Health
Dr. Romesh Gautom, Department of Health
Dr. Marcia Goldoft, Department of Health
Susan Walker, Department of Health
Local Health Jurisdictions

