



Dear Public Health Laboratory Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce the 2022 cycle of the CDC's EDLB Reference Laboratories Quality Assurance Panel (EQA Panel). Participating laboratories will receive the following:

- Five isolates of *Salmonella* spp. for identification and serotyping
- Five isolates of *Escherichia/Shigella* for identification, serotyping and virulence profiling
- Five isolates of *Campylobacter* for identification
- One isolate of *Enterobacterales* for identification and serotyping, if applicable

As with the 2021 cycle of our QA Panel, subscribers will receive all four challenge sets included in the 2022 EDLB Reference Laboratories Quality Assurance Panel. Additionally, for those laboratories that are required to participate in the Spring 2022 PulseNet WGS Proficiency Testing (PT) Program, isolates for this panel will be included with this shipment. Some of the isolates will be included in both the EQA Panel and the PulseNet PT Panel and will need to be shared between the two laboratories. These shared isolates will be clearly indicated in the shipment. If you have any questions regarding the PulseNet PT, please contact PulseNet@cdc.gov with "WGS Proficiency Testing" in the subject line of the email.

Laboratories are not expected to modify their protocols or procure additional reagents to complete the panel. You may characterize the organisms to the extent possible with your routine testing and report that the organism would be referred for confirmation. If you do not test a specific organism, you may simply report "Not Tested" for that panel.

If you are interested in participating, please reply to the Enteric Reference Inbox, EntericReferenceLab@cdc.gov with the following information:

- Laboratory Name:
- Point of Contact:
- Email:
- Telephone:
- FedEx Address:
- Fax Number or Alternate Email:
- Copy of in-date VS16-6 Permit at time of shipment (April)

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION BY **FEBRUARY 26, 2022.**

We intend to ship the QA panels the week of April 3, 2022 with a tentative ship date of April 6, 2022 and delivery April 7, 2022. These dates are approximate, as public health emergencies will take precedence for shipping.

Results will be due on Friday, July 8, 2022 (three months after receipt). If shipping delays occur, we will adjust the due date accordingly.

Best,
Susan Van Duyne
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