



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**
Division of Public Health

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Memo

To: Submitters of Clinical Specimens to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health

From: William A. Glover II, Ph.D., D(ABMM), MLS(ASCP)
Assistant Laboratory Director for Infectious Diseases

Date: 1/25/2023

Re: Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) PCR (stx1 and stx) Testing

Effective immediately, the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health (NCSLPH) will begin sending clinical stool specimens and reference isolates submitted for Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC) testing (including *E. coli* O157:H7) to the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) in Richmond, VA for Real-time PCR testing for the detection of stx1 and stx2 virulence genes in STEC.

This change is temporary and part of a quality improvement initiative at NCSLPH. Please be advised that during this period, increased turn-around-times may be experienced. This change will not impact other Enteric Pathogen testing (e.g., *Salmonella*, *Shigella*). There are **no changes** to specimen collection or submission procedures.

This change will result in a difference in the appearance of the Enteric Bacteriology report for STEC specimens. The stx1 and stx2 gene Real-time PCR results from DCLS will appear as a separate report attached to the NCSLPH report. The NCSLPH report will still contain the Enteric Reference (Culture) or Enteric Clinical (Culture) result.

Additional information about submission criteria and shipping can be found in SCOPE pp. 57-60 and pp. 151-152. <https://slph.ncpublichealth.com/doc/SCOPE-Guide-To-Laboratory-Services.pdf>

For questions, contact Thomas Lawson, Microbiology Unit Manager at 919-807-8803, or Joanne Touchberry, Enteric Bacteriology Supervisor at 919-807-8793.