



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute  
305 South Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

JUDYANN BIGBY, MD  
SECRETARY

JOHN AUERBACH  
COMMISSIONER

TO: Health Services Division, Massachusetts Department of Correction  
Health Services Unit Administrators, Massachusetts Correctional Facilities

FROM: Linda Han, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Microbiology Laboratory *WA*  
Thomas Bertrand, M.P.H., Director, Division of STD Prevention *Tom B.*

DATE: October 6, 2008

RE: Routine syphilis screening for all inmates is no longer required

Effective October 8, 2008, routine syphilis screening of correctional facility inmates by serologic testing will no longer be required by Massachusetts public health regulations. Specifically, this requirement has been eliminated from 105 CMR 205.200 because routine syphilis screening of inmates is costly and no longer contributes to disease control. Case finding can be more effectively accomplished through targeted testing of individuals at heightened risk for disease, as identified through medical history and clinical evaluation.

Accordingly, routine screening of inmates of correctional facilities will no longer be performed at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health William A. Hinton State Laboratory Institute. The laboratory will continue to provide syphilis testing as requested for inmates of correctional facilities, but only when ordered for clinical reasons by a health care provider.