



**NL Health
Services**

Memorandum

To: EZ Clinical and Laboratory Staff
From: Public Health Microbiology Laboratory (PHML)
Date: 12 Nov 2025
Re: Consolidation of MSSA/MRSA Screening Orders

The process for ordering *Staphylococcus aureus* screening will be updated as follows:

Order Consolidation

- The current separate orders for Nose Culture Screen (Mnemonic: NOSECU) and MRSA Screen (Mnemonic: MRSACU) will be retired.
- A new consolidated order, MSSA/MRSA Screen (Mnemonic: MSSA.MRSA), will replace both.

Specimen Requirements

- Acceptable specimen: Bacterial swab (ex. Copan E-Swab), primarily from the nasal cavity.
- Purpose: To screen for colonization with MSSA (Methicillin-Sensitive *Staphylococcus aureus*) and MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*).

Rationale

This update eliminates duplicate ordering pathways and creates a standardized approach for *S. aureus* colonization screening across sites.

The change will be implemented first in the urban Eastern zone, with plans for a province wide rollout to follow in a phased manner. When the change has been implemented in each zone, a pop-up box will indicate ordering of MSSA.MRSA instead of NOSECU or MRSACU.

Thank you,

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