Dear Public Health Laboratory Colleagues:

We are pleased to announce the 2018 cycle of the CDC’s National Enteric Reference and Outbreak Team Quality Assurance Panel (NERO QA 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
- Two isolates of "unknown" *Enterobacteriaceae* for identification and characterization

As with the 2017 cycle of our QA Panel, subscribers will receive all five challenge sets. Laboratories are not expected to modify their protocols or procure additional reagents to complete the panel. If your lab does basic testing on an organism, you may characterize that organism to the extent possible 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 NERO Enteric Inbox, entericreferencelab@cdc.gov, with the following information:

- Laboratory Name:
- Point of Contact:
- Email:
- Telephone:
- FedEx Address:
- Fax Number or Alternate Email:
- Copy of VS16-6 Permit

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION BY DECEMBER 15, 2017.

If you emailed earlier indicating your interest in participating, please resubmit the registration to the NERO Enteric Inbox. Please verify that all the needed contact and shipping information is included in the email.

We intend to ship the QA panels the week of JANUARY 29, 2018. Based on the schedule of the shipping office, we would like to ship JANUARY 31, 2018 for delivery on FEBRUARY 1, 2018. These dates are approximate, as public health emergencies will take precedent for shipping.

Results would be due on Friday, MAY 4, 2018 (three months after receipt). If shipping delays occur, we will adjust the due date accordingly.

Best,

Charlotte Lane, ORISE Fellow (koe7@cdc.gov)
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