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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

May 5, 2015

The Honorable  
Erie County Legislature  
92 Franklin Street – Fourth Floor  
Buffalo, New York 14202

**RE: Erie County Public Health Lab – Revised Testing Schedule**

Dear Honorable Members:

Over the past year, the Erie County Health Laboratory has taken proactive steps to become a regional center for public health testing by improving the quantity and quality of tests that it can provide.

As part of the work being done by the lab, a comprehensive business analysis was done to develop an up-to-date fee schedule for new and existing tests. The fees in the attached resolution will allow the Lab to continue to provide fairly priced tests, while still complying with New York State Public Health Law Article VI requirements to charge fees equivalent to real costs.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Health Commissioner Gale R. Burstein, MD. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz".

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.  
Erie County Executive

MCP: bqs  
Enclosure

## **MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature  
**From:** Department of Health  
**Re:** Erie County Public Health Lab Revised Testing Schedule  
**Date:** May 5, 2015

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### **SUMMARY**

Authorization is requested to modify the existing fee schedule for the Erie County Public Health Lab to better reflect new costs, and also to allow the department to perform new testing services which have been recently developed and implemented with new technology.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Positive. The new fee schedule will allow the Department to more accurately bill for current tests and to offer new tests to the community.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

Over the past year, the Erie County Department of Health has taken steps to make the Erie County Public Health Lab become more fiscally sound and relevant to the community as a regional testing center for public health needs. This newly adjusted fee schedule represents the fiscal side of this equation.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Article VI of the New York State Public Health Law requires local municipalities seeking state reimbursement to make their best effort to charge fees comparable to their actual costs of providing services. As a result, the Erie County Department of Health must periodically re-evaluate the fees it charges for various services, including laboratory testing.

Careful research of internal costs, as well as the laboratory testing market was conducted to generate a fee schedule that would not only meet New York State Article VI requirements, but also remain fair and reasonable to the community at large who rely upon these testing services.

In addition to modifying existing fees, this revised schedule also includes new tests which the Erie County Public Health Lab can now conduct, allowing us to provide even more services to Western New York.

### **CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The Public Health Lab would be unable to offer many of the new tests that it is capable of performing and in addition, would be dramatically undercharging for many of its existing tests.

### **STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL**

The Health Department will work with the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Information and Support Services and the Comptroller's Office to implement this request and take the appropriate steps necessary to implement the new fee schedule.

## **A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

RE: Revised Fee Schedule-Erie County Department of Health Public Health Laboratory

WHEREAS, New York State Public Health Law, Article 6, require that in order for a county to receive State Aid it must charge for services at a rate comparable to the cost of providing these services; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Health Department currently charges fees for Environmental Health, Medical Examiner, Public Health Laboratory and Clinical services under a fee schedule; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amended fee schedule will generate revenues, which will be directly applied to offset the cost of providing these programs; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that this action will result in an annual revenue increase of approximately \$45,000 above the existing fee schedule, all of which will be utilized in the Department of Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby adopts the proposed fee schedule revisions effective June 1, 2015 for the Erie County Department of Health as follows:

### **Public Health Laboratory Fees and Charges**

#### **Environmental Testing Services**

#### **Inorganic Chemistry Analyses**

<b>ANALYTE</b>	<b>Fee (current schedule)</b>	<b>Fee (Revised)</b>
Color	\$5.36	<b>\$10.00</b>
pH	\$10.71	<b>\$15.00</b>
Alkalinity	\$21.42	<b>\$28.00</b>
Total Solids	\$10.71	<b>\$14.00</b>
Total Dissolved Solids	\$10.71	<b>\$14.00</b>
Total Suspended Solids	\$10.71	<b>\$14.00</b>
Settleable Solids	\$10.71	<b>\$10.00</b>
Calcium Hardness	\$10.71	<b>\$18.00</b>
Total Hardness	\$10.71	<b>\$18.00</b>
Chloride	\$10.71	<b>\$25.00</b>
Cyanide	\$21.42	<b>\$40.00</b>
Fluoride	\$21.42	<b>\$25.00</b>
Nitrate	\$16.07	<b>\$25.00</b>
Nitrite	\$10.71	<b>\$25.00</b>
Nitrite	\$10.71	<b>\$25.00</b>

Orthophosphates	\$10.71	\$25.00
Sulfate	\$10.71	\$25.00
Turbidity	\$10.71	\$15.00
Ammonia	\$21.42	\$35.00

## Dialysis Fluid, Metals and Inorganics

ANALYTE	Price (current)	Price (Revised)
<b>Dialysis Water Metals:</b> Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, Silver, Thallium, Zinc, Calcium, Magnesium, Potassium, Sodium	NA	\$90.00
<b>Dialysis Inorganics:</b> Fluoride, Sulfate, Nitrate	NA	\$30.00

## Metals

ANALYTE	Price (current)	Price (Revised)
<b>Trace Metals Scan:</b> Aluminum, Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Manganese, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Silver, Thallium, Zinc	NA	\$80.00
<b>NYS Part 5 Table 8B:</b> Antimony, Arsenic, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Mercury, Nickel, Selenium, Thallium	NA	\$50.00
<b>Distilled Water Metals Check:</b> Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Lead, Nickel, Zinc	NA	\$30.00
Aluminum	NA	\$20.00
Arsenic	\$10.71	\$20.00
Barium	\$10.71	\$20.00
Cadmium	\$10.71	\$20.00
Chromium	\$10.71	\$20.00
Copper	\$10.71	\$20.00
Iron	\$10.71	\$20.00
Lead	\$10.71	\$20.00
Manganese	\$10.71	\$20.00
Mercury	\$21.42	\$20.00
Nickel	\$10.71	\$20.00
Selenium	\$10.71	\$20.00
Silver	\$10.71	\$20.00
Sodium	\$10.71	\$20.00
Zinc	\$10.71	\$20.00

## Disinfection Byproducts

ANALYTE	Price (current)	Price (Revised)
Haloacetic acids	\$133.88	\$160.00
Trihalomethanes	\$42.84	\$50.00
Chlorate, Chlorite	NA	\$25.00
Bromate	NA	\$35.00
Bromide	NA	\$25.00

## Organic Chemistry Analyses

ANALYTE	Price (current)	Price (Revised)
Total Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), NYS Part 5	\$107.10	\$150.00
Semi-volatiles (Pesticide, PCB), NYS Part 5	NA	\$225.00
Oil & Grease	\$21.42	\$50.00
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) (pending availability)	\$42.84	\$55.00

## Microbiology Services

ANALYTE	Price (current)	Price (Revised)
Standard Plate Count	\$16.07	\$16.00
Coliform, Total (Colilert)	\$10.71	\$11.00
E. coli (Enumeration)	\$10.71	\$11.00
Coliform, Total (Filter)	\$16.07	\$16.00
Coliform, Fecal (Filter)	\$16.07	\$16.00
E. coli (Filter-mTEC)	\$16.07	\$16.00
Enterococci, (Filter-mEI)	contract	\$16.00
BOD-Biological Oxygen Demand	\$26.78	\$30.00
COD-Chemical Oxygen Demand	\$26.78	\$30.00
Frozen Dessert (Total Coliform)	\$5.36	\$8.00
Frozen Dessert (Standard Plate Count)	\$5.36	\$10.00
Restaurant Swab (Total Coliform)	\$5.36	\$8.00
Restaurant Swab (Standard Plate Count)	\$5.36	\$10.00
Autoclave Sterilization Spore Test (Sterility)	\$6.96	\$10.00
Biological Air Monitoring	\$535.50	Call for pricing and availability

## Community Environmental Health Laboratory Service Testing Packages

ANALYTE	Price (current)	Price (Revised)
Potable Well Water Testing Package (includes total coliform/E. coli; nitrate; and lead analysis)	\$48.20	\$62.00
Enhanced Potable Well Water Testing Package (includes Potable Well Water Package + volatile solvents [petroleum] analysis)	\$155.30	\$235.00
Mortgage Well Water Testing Package (includes total coliform/E. coli, nitrate, nitrite, and lead analysis)	\$59.75	\$80.00
Recreational Water Bacterial Testing Package (E. coli or Enterococci culture analysis)	\$16.07	\$16.00
Recreational water Enterococci testing by qPCR *		\$25.00

Microcystin detection - Semi-Quantitative *		\$35.00
Microcystin detection - Quantitative *		\$50.00
Unknown Powder/ Substance ID *	\$50.00/ hour	\$50.00/hour

## Clinical Laboratory Services

### BACTERIOLOGY

Culture, general aerobic	na	\$14.00
Culture, general anaerobic	na	\$18.00
Bacterial Identification, per isolate, aerobic	na	\$14.00
Bacterial Identification, per isolate, anaerobic	na	\$14.00
Stool Culture	\$8.73	\$15.50
Culture, <i>Gonorrhea</i>	\$5.57	\$10.50
- Bacterial identification	na	\$13.00
- Confirmatory, Accuprobe	na	\$28.00
Gram Stain	\$13.39	\$7.00
Wet Prep	\$3.64	\$7.00
GC/Ct Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (Male urine / Female swab)	\$18.74	\$25.00
Pertussis PCR, <i>B. pertussis</i> and <i>B. paraptussis</i> w/ <i>B. holmesii</i> diff.	na	\$100.00
LRN Reference testing, Rule out B.anthraxis, Brucella, Fraciscella, or Y. pestis		No fee

### CLINICAL CHEMISTRY

Chemistry analysis, Alkaline phosphatase, ALT, AST, Total Bilirubin, etc.	\$5.39/analyte	\$7.00
- Call Lab for additional chemistry analytes and availability		
Urine Pregnancy (hCG)	\$2.14	\$10.00

### DIAGNOSTIC IMMUNOLOGY

Hepatitis B Virus Surface Antigen	\$11.87	\$19.00
Hepatitis B Virus Surface Antibody	\$10.82	\$16.00
Hepatitis C Virus Antibody	\$10.71	\$24.00
Syphilis Treponemal Antibody	\$13.60	\$18.00
RPR (Rapid Plasma Reagin) Non-treponemal Antibody	\$3.75	\$9.00
TPPA		\$18.00
HIV-1/HIV-2 Antibody EIA	\$15.17	\$18.00
Multispot HIV-1/HIV-2 Differentiation/Confirmation		\$35.00
HSV-2 Antibody (IgG type specific)	\$14.50	\$30.00

### VIROLOGY

Influenza A/B Screen, PCR		\$50.00
Influenza A subtyping, PCR		\$25.00

**Miscellaneous Services (previously not offered, will enhance customer service)**

	<b>Price (current)</b>	<b>Price (Revised)</b>
Shipment and Handling of Water Sample kits		\$5.00
Specimen Packaging & Shipping, Category A		\$ 60.00 plus shipping
Specimen Packaging & Shipping, Category B		\$30.00 plus shipping
Dry Ice shipments (add-on cost)		\$13.00
Courier Fee (Routine)		\$2.00
Courier Fee (After-hours, Weekends, Emergency) -call for availability		\$25.00
RUSH analysis Fee -call for availability		\$100.00
Sample Storage – Long-term		\$25.00

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RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be forwarded to the County Executive, the Office of the Comptroller, the Division of Budget and Management, the Department of Law and to Commissioner Gale R. Burstein in the Erie County Department of Health.