



Peter C. Iwen, Ph.D., D (ABMM), Laboratory Director  
985900 Nebraska Medical Center  
Omaha, NE 68198  
Main: 402-559-9444  
24/7 Pager: 402-888-5588

---

# NPHL ALERT

---

Date: 01/04/2023

On December 22, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sent out a Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory (<https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2022/han00484.asp>) to notify clinicians and public health authorities of a current increase in pediatric invasive group A streptococcal (iGAS) infections. This advisory is in response to a noted November increase in iGAS infections occurring in pediatric patients in Colorado and has since been identified in several other states.

- Invasive group A streptococcal disease can include cellulitis with bacteremia, necrotizing fasciitis, pneumonia, and a streptococcal toxic shock syndrome (STSS).
- Non-invasive group A streptococcal illness includes strep-throat, scarlet fever, and impetigo.

If a Nebraska laboratory encounters a child (18 years or younger) with an isolate of group A *Streptococcus* from an invasive source, the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services is requesting the isolate be sent to the Nebraska Public Health Laboratory (NPHL) for potential additional testing as requested by the CDC.

The isolate should be sent in an ambient Category B box and be ordered in NUlirt as a NPHLBK stating that it is Group A *Streptococcus*. Any questions related to this can be directed to NPHL at 402-559-9444