



Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention (CDC)  
Atlanta GA 30329-4027

March 31, 2022

Drs Freedman, Bausch and Goraleski  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
241 18<sup>th</sup> Street South, Suite 501  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Dr. Freedman, Dr. Bausch, and Ms. Goraleski,

Thank you for reaching out about the challenges the pause in testing for parasitic diseases has presented for patients, healthcare providers and laboratory scientists, particularly those treating people at elevated risk for parasitic diseases. I certainly understand and appreciate the concerns expressed in your letter.

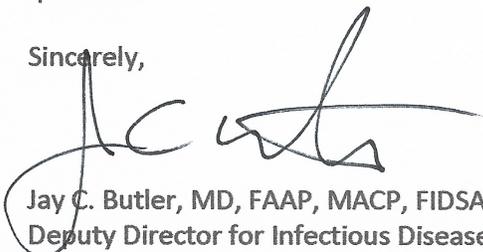
CDC works to reduce parasitic disease related death, illness, and disability in the U.S., reduce the global burden of malaria, and eliminate targeted neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Our Parasitic Diseases Laboratory is the foundation of this work. Our laboratory experts develop and improve tools and approaches to detect, prevent, and control disease; and provide diagnostic assistance and expertise to public health laboratories. We recognize that the medical community and the public rely on our parasitic diseases' laboratory for accurate and timely diagnostic services and that the interruption in services has been exceedingly difficult.

As the nation's premier health protection agency, CDC's laboratories must meet and maintain the highest standards of excellence. To treat their patients, our clinical partners must have confidence in this excellence, too. To ensure that we can meet these expectations and continue offering high quality diagnostic services, we are working diligently to implement [laboratory system improvements](#).

It is our highest priority to resume testing operations as soon as possible and in due course, we seek to offer all the same tests that were available before the pause. We are prioritizing diagnostic tests with the greatest public health impact, particularly those assays that are limited in availability. Our parasitic diseases' laboratory has already restarted serologic testing for Chagas disease, morphologic identification, and is on track for phased resumption of all diagnostic assays. Our careful and thorough approach reinforces our commitment to quality.

We appreciate your support and acknowledgement of the critical role that CDC's parasitic diseases laboratory plays for you and your patients. We value the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene longstanding partnership and appreciate your patience and collaboration to ensure adequate communication to providers regarding testing as we make every effort to attain our common goal. I can be reached via email at [JCB3@CDC.GOV](mailto:JCB3@CDC.GOV) and look forward to being in closer communication going forward. We are also happy to offer a meeting with our leadership team for additional questions.

Sincerely,



Jay C. Butler, MD, FAAP, MACP, FIDSA  
Deputy Director for Infectious Diseases