

<b>DATE:</b>	2021 November 29
<b>TO:</b>	South Zone East (inc. Medicine Hat) Physicians and Nursing Staff
<b>FROM:</b>	Alberta Precision Laboratories – Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Microbiology Laboratory
<b>RE:</b>	<b>Blood Culture Bottle Conversion</b>

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## PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

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### Key Message

Effective **December 14, 2021** the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH) laboratory will:

1. Begin using a new blood culture system (**BD BacTec**) including new blood culture bottles and collection adaptors.
2. Return to a 5 day incubation period for all blood cultures.

### Why this is important

- A change in use from the current BiorMerieux BacT/Alert blood culture bottles and vacuette holders to the new **BD BacTec blood culture bottles and Vacutainer one-use holders** is required. See Reference photos below.
- The current blood culture incubator is being replaced due to age and technical concerns.
- Switching to the BD BacTec system increases the laboratory's blood culture testing capacity.
- MHRH laboratory will also return to a 5 day incubation period for all blood cultures, ending the temporary reduction to a 4 day incubation time detailed in a previous bulletin ([Temporary Change to Blood Culture Incubation and Reporting Times](#)).

### Action Required

- **Starting December 14, 2021:**
  - **Discontinue use of BiorMerieux BacT/Alert** blood culture bottles and return them to the laboratory
  - **Begin use of BD BacTec** blood culture bottles and vacutainer one-use holders.
- Requests for BD BacTec bottles should be made directly to your local laboratory as they are not yet available in stores.
- BD Vacutainer one-use holders can be received from stores.
- No change is required for ordering blood cultures.
- No change in collection procedures for blood cultures is required.

### Inquiries and feedback may be directed to

- Crystal Geddes, Microbiology Tech II, 403-502-8648 ext. 1202, [crystal.geddes@albertaprecisionlabs.ca](mailto:crystal.geddes@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

### This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Michael Groeschel, MD, Medical Microbiologist, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories
- Dr. Paul Klonowski, MD, Associate Medical Director, South Sector, Alberta Precision Laboratories



**Reference Photos**

**New BD BacTec Blood Culture Bottle type cap and label colors**

**ANAEROBIC: purple**

**AEROBIC: grey**

**PEDIATRIC: pink**

