

DATE:	28 November 2023
TO:	South Zone Health Care Providers, Clinic Staff, and Nursing Units (excluding Chinook Regional Hospital and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital)
FROM:	Medical Microbiology, Alberta Precision Laboratories (APL) (including former <i>DynaLIFE</i> Medical Labs)
RE:	Change in South Zone Blood Culture Bottles and Testing Location

PLEASE POST OR DISTRIBUTE AS WIDELY AS APPROPRIATE

Key Message

- **Effective December 11**, blood culture testing for rural acute care sites in South zone will be transferred to Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH) and Medicine Hat Regional Hospital (MHRH).
- For the following acute care sites **DO NOT USE the BioMerieux BacTAlert bottles to collect blood cultures. USE the BD Bactec bottles** (see pictures below).
 - Acute care hospitals with blood cultures going to CRH for testing:
 - Cardston, Coaldale, Crowsnest Pass, Fort McLeod, Milk River, Picture Butte, Pincher Creek, Raymond, Taber.
 - Acute care hospitals with blood cultures going to MHRH for testing:
 - Bassano, Brooks, Bow Island, Oyen.
- Transportation time from collection site to the testing site for blood cultures is expected to improve.



BD Bactec bottles [New]



**BioMerieux BacTAlert bottles
[Being replaced]**

Background

- Since December 2022, blood cultures from these sites have been tested at the *DynaLIFE* Calgary DSC Hub Laboratory. However, this arrangement does not support clinical needs and stability requirements.
- This change is part of an ongoing review of laboratory services during the integration of *DynaLIFE* medical laboratories into APL. Changes to other tests are currently under consideration.
- **The blood culture testing platform for the regional sites is only compatible with BD Bactec bottles, which makes use of the correct bottles critically important to avoid delays.** If collected in the BacT Alert bottles, these will need to be transferred to Calgary, resulting in a delay in testing.



How this will impact you

- Clinical consultation support for these specimens will now be provided by the APL Regional Medical Microbiologist team. For inquiries about specific blood cultures, contact the APL Regional Medical Microbiologist On-Call at 1-825-509-0970.

Action Required

- **APL Sites (ED's, Nursing Units, Clinics, etc. at affected sites):**
 - **BD Bactec** bottles will be ordered by the laboratory and supplied to by CPSM.
 - BioMerieux BacTAlert bottles will be removed from carts by Site Services Staff to ensure that the correct bottles are used.

Current			New		
Oracle #	Description	Supplier / Supplier #	Oracle #	Description	Supplier / Supplier #
284279	BOTTLE BLOOD CULTURE PEDIATRIC 410853	410853	320430	BD PLASTIC BACTEC PEDS +/F MED	442020
284277	BOTTLE BLOOD CULTURE AEROBIC 410851	410851	320432	BD PLASTIC BACTEC + AEROBIC/F	442023
284278	BOTTLE BLOOD CULTURE ANAEROBIC 410852	410852	320431	BD PLASTIC BACTEC ANAEROBIC/LYTIC	442021
314676	HOLDER BLOOD CULTURE VACUETTE	450181	260582	HOLDER BLOOD COLLECTION VACUTAINER VENOUS ACCESS NON STACKABLE	308-364815

Questions/Concerns may be directed to

- Pamela Churko, Microbiology Discipline Lead, APL (pamela.churko@albertaprecisionlabs.ca)

This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by

- Dr. Dylan Pillai, Medical Director South Sector, APL
- Dr. Erene Farag, Medical Director, DynaLIFE Medical Laboratories (now APL community lab services)

Effective September 1, 2023, APL has become the sole provider of all public lab services in Alberta. As a result, community lab services formally provided by DynaLIFE Medical Labs will become the responsibility of Alberta Precision Labs (APL). This change impacts all zones.