

**Date:** December 22, 2011

**To:** South Zone East  
Physicians, Nursing Managers, and Laboratory Administration

**From:** AHS Laboratory Services – South Zone (East)

**Re:** Positive Blood Culture Reports

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**Key Messages:**

- Effective January 3, 2012 - Positive blood culture results will now be reported by the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Microbiology Laboratory on a 24 hour basis. Previous reporting of positive results occurred during daytime shifts only.

**Why this is important:**

- Positive blood cultures are considered to be a critical result and will be relayed by the Laboratory to nursing wards at any time during a 24 hour period.

**Action Required:**

- As with other critical laboratory results, nursing wards will communicate the preliminary positive blood culture result to the patient physician. This information will assist the physician with the determination of appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

**For additional questions contact:**

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This bulletin has been reviewed and approved by:  
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