



# Newfoundland & Labrador

## PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Dr. LA Miller Centre, 100 Forest Road, St. John's, NL A1A 3Z9

(709) 777-6583

[www.publichealthlab.ca](http://www.publichealthlab.ca)

**FROM: NL PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY**

**TO: ALL RHA PHYSICIANS, NURSES, LABORATORY DIRECTORS**

**RE: UPDATED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADULT BLOOD CULTURE COLLECTION – NOV 10, 2020**

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Based on current best practices for collecting blood from patients suspected of having a systemic bacterial or yeast infection, the Public Health and Microbiology Laboratory (PHML) is revising collection protocols for all stakeholders:

- For each suspect septic episode, collect two sets of blood culture; each set includes one aerobic and one anaerobic blood culture bottle (total 4 bottles).
- The blood should be collected from two independent draws/venipunctures with 8-10 mL of blood into each bottle.
- The two sets can be collected *serially* (separated by a time interval) or *simultaneously* provided they are collected from different venipuncture sites.

Any questions regarding this memorandum can be directed to the Office of the PHML Director – Dr. George Zahariadis - by calling PHML at 709 777 7233

*\* These recommendations are for routine blood culture specimens in an adult population.*

For other clinical circumstances such as suspect infective endocarditis, suspect systemic mycobacterial or mould infection, line infection, clinical staff can consult the Microbiologist-On-Call by calling 709 777 6300 or by emailing: [microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca](mailto:microbiologistoncall@easternhealth.ca)

### References:

1. CLSI. Principles and Procedures for Blood Cultures; Approved Guideline. CLSI document M47-A. Wayne, PA: Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2007
2. Consensus Practice Recommendations - BACT- Blood Cultures Revision date: 2012-09-04 (IQMH, 2012-09-04)

