FROM: NL PROVINICAL PUBLIC HEALTH MICROBIOLOGY LABORATORY

TO: ALL RHA PHYSICIANS, NURSES, LABORATORY DIRECTORS

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

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

References:

2. Consensus Practice Recommendations - BACT- Blood Cultures Revision date: 2012-09-04 (IQMH, 2012-09-04)