



PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION
Oregon State Public Health Laboratory

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon
Health
Authority

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Dear OSPHL Clinical Laboratory Partners,

The Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) recently identified a safety risk in the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (MTB) testing laboratory. This notice applies to your laboratory if you use BTA systems to identify MTB and you have submitted specimen material in the BacT bottle for AFB identification to the OSPHL.

The OSPHL will be phasing out acceptance of specimens submitted in BacT bottles by February 1, 2019. This change helps ensure the safety of OSPHL staff by ending use of needles to remove material from BacT bottles, the only use of needles in the OSPHL MTB laboratory.

Rather than submit a BacT bottle, please remove 5mL of material from the BacT bottle and spin for 15 minutes at 4150 rpm. Decant the supernatant, leaving approximately 0.5mL. Resuspend and transfer to a microcentrifuge tube, sealed with parafilm, for submission.

If specimens cannot be spun, they may be submitted in conical tubes sealed with parafilm if needed.

We recognize this could be a significant change for your laboratory. If you have questions or concerns about this change, please contact Caitlin Miranda, Interim MTB Testing Lead, at 503-693-4100.

Sincerely,

John L. Fontana, PhD, (HCLD) ABB
Director, OSPHL

Caitlin Miranda, M(ASCP)
Interim MTB Testing Lead