

## Test Update: Blood Cultures

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Effective **March 2, 2020**, PathGroup is pleased to announce the implementation of the BD BACTEC system for blood cultures as well as a new test code, **CXBLOOD**, for blood culture testing. On the effective date, all previous specimen containers will be discontinued as well as the previous test code.

The BD BACTEC blood culture system utilizes specialized bottles (Aerobic and Anaerobic vial sets or Pediatric collection vials). A gram stain will be performed on the positive bottle and preliminary positive results called to the clinician. This new methodology will allow for increased detection rates and decreased turnaround times for positive cultures. As in the current procedure, negative cultures will be incubated for five days before a final report is issued.



PLEASE NOTE: Clients who frequently order blood culture testing will be sent new collection kits by Monday, February 24, 2020. All those who do not receive this shipment will need to order new collection kits from PathGroup Supplies (PathSupply #73376 – Blood Culture Kit).

	DISCONTINUED	NEW
<b>Test Code</b>	<b>CXBLD</b>	<b>CXBLOOD</b>
<b>Specimen Container</b>	<b>Alere IsoStat</b>	<b>BD BACTEC Vials</b>
<b>Collection Method</b>	Isolator tube	Aerobic and Anaerobic vials (both required per collection) or Peds vial (single vial required for pediatric collection)
<b>Required Volume</b>	10 ml (adult) or 1.5 ml (pediatric)	8-10 ml per vial or 1-5 ml per Peds vial
<b>Stability at Room Temperature</b>	16 hours	48 hours
<b>Processing</b>	Tube contents plated on agar plates. Positive detected when growth is visible.	Vials incubated in automated reader. Positive alert when growth detected.
<b>Frequency of Culture Reading</b>	Every 12-24 hours	Every 10 minutes
<b>Time to Final for Negatives</b>	5 days	5 days

**For further questions, please contact Client Services at 1-888-4PG-LABS (1-888-474-5227).**