**TO:** Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center and Community Group Practice Providers

**FROM:** Nicole Loeven, PhD, D(ABMM), Assistant Medical Director of Microbiology

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**Date:** May 28, 2025

**Re:** Mycobacterial Blood Culture: Myco/F Lytic Bottles Back in House

**Situation**

Earlier this year the Microbiology Laboratory [announced](https://one-dh.testcatalog.org/catalogs/565/files/17095) a change in mycobacterial blood culture collection containers and that mycobacterial blood cultures would temporarily be sent out to Mayo Clinic Laboratories.

**Background**

The manufacturer of Myco/F Lytic bottles has transitioned from producing glass bottles to exclusively manufacturing plastic bottles. The DHMC Microbiology Laboratory has now completed the required verification study for implementation of plastic Myco/F Lytic bottles.

**Assessment**

Due to the imminent expiration of our existing supply of glass bottles and the delay in completion of the verification studies, blood cultures for mycobacteria were temporarily being sent out to Mayo Clinic Laboratories requiring a different collection container from usual.

*The verification study is now complete. Plastic bottles performed equally to glass bottles in recovery of mycobacteria. Plastic Myco/F Lytic bottles will be put into use immediately and mycobacterial blood cultures will again be performed in house.*

**Recommendation**

For patients with suspicion of disseminated mycobacterial infection:

1. Order “Mycobacteria (Acid Fast Bacilli) Culture” ([LAB877](https://one-dh.testcatalog.org/show/7267497)).
   * Bottles can be retrieved from the Microbiology Laboratory by calling 603-650-2942.
2. Fill plastic Myco F/lytic bottle with 1-5 mL blood. The optimal range is 3-5 mL.
   * Note: The bottle will accept more than the maximum of 5 mL, if the bottle is overfilled it will increase the likelihood of a false positive.

**For questions or additional information, please contact:**

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