

MARCH 15, 2019



Montana Laboratory Sentinel

Updates from the MT Laboratory Services Bureau, 800-821-7284, www.lab.hhs.mt.gov

Patient Manifests

Soon, the Montana Public Health Laboratory (MTPHL) will be implementing a policy that will require clinical laboratories to include a patient manifest with all submissions. The use of patient manifests will allow us to better track all specimens from the time they leave your location to receipt at MTPHL. Each manifest will be reconciled with the actual specimens received and if any discrepancy is noted, you will be alerted immediately. Both parties will investigate to try and address the issue. All manifest will be kept for a minimum of 30 days.

For those facilities serviced by the State laboratory courier, we will soon have large customized specimen transport bags that will be able to hold all specimens sent from your facility. This is in effort to avoid any mix up when the courier picks up specimens for the State. You will have a large transport bag for ambient specimens, as well as separate transport bag for refrigerated specimens or you can always use a cooler for transport.

This new process should alleviate the courier from picking up multiple single specimens. They should only be picking up the large sealed specimen transport bag(s) and/or cooler(s), which should ease tracking. Each large transport bag should also include a patient manifest. The manifest should be signed to verify the specimens are in the bag prior to transport. Once received, we will again reconcile the manifest to specimens received.

Note: If you have another facility dropping off specimens at your site for courier pickup, that facility is responsible for providing their own manifest along with their specimen(s). All specimens being picked up by the State courier from your facility, including specimens from off-site facilities, should be placed in one of the large transport bags (ambient or refrigerated).

We will send out additional notification as we get closer to initiating this process but wanted to give you a heads up. We are hoping this policy will alleviate some of the issues we have had with missing specimens in the past, as well as make it easier for the courier for transport.

Please call the MTPHL with any questions or concerns 406-444-3444 or 800-821-7284

Biofire Recall



BioFire recently issued an advisory notice notifying customers of a Field recall involving the FilmArray® Gastrointestinal (GI) Panel. Panels with expiration dates ranging from 10-23-2019 to 2-20-2020 have been identified as having elevated rates of false positive results for *Campylobacter* and *Cryptosporidium*. BioFire stopped shipping the GI Panel at the end of February, while they work on a solution to the issue. In the meantime, the company has said customers can continue to use the panels they have in stock, as long as they are aware that positive results for *Campylobacter* and *Cryptosporidium* should be confirmed by other means before being reported.

Campylobacter and *Cryptosporidium* are reportable conditions in Montana, and positive *Campylobacter* specimens must be sent to the Montana Public Health Laboratory per Administrative Rule for possible further surveillance testing. While these positive specimens are normally stored for future surveillance, laboratories can request confirmation in real-time. If you would like to have your positive specimen confirmed, please write the request in the comment section on the MT Public Health Laboratory Request Form.

Specimens for *Cryptosporidium* confirmation should be submitted in Total Fix transfer medium for ova and parasite examination. Again, please comment that the sample tested positive using BioFire FilmArray® (GI) Panel. You can download a copy of the customer letter, which includes affected lot numbers and their expiration dates, at the BioFire E-Document Center, <https://www.online-ifu.com/ITIGI0281>.

If you have questions regarding sample submission for confirmation, or any other Public Health Laboratory services, please contact the MT Public Health Laboratory at (800) 821-7284 or (406) 444-3444.

