



## Memorandum - Micro #218

To: UNC Health System Attending Physicians and  
Faculty Practice Physicians, Housestaff, Clinical Nurse Coordinators,  
Department Heads and Supervisors

From: <sup>MB</sup> Herbert C. Whinna, MD, PhD; Medical Director, McLendon Clinical Laboratories  
<sup>MM</sup> Melissa B. Miller, PhD; Director, Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Date: January 9, 2023

**Subject: Update to Mould Blood Culture**

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Due to the commercial discontinuation of lysis centrifugation (Isolator) tubes, the Mould Blood Culture order at UNC Medical Center Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will change effective January 16, 2023.

The Mould Blood Culture is indicated only if infection with *Fusarium*, *Histoplasma* or *Malassezia furfur* is suspected. The collection is changing to **two** Myco/Lytic blood culture bottles. Receipt of only one Myco/Lytic bottle will be rejected as the sensitivity is significantly impacted by blood volume. A retrospective analysis from the last three years indicates that Mould Blood Cultures are of minimal yield. Alternative diagnostic methods should be used to detect disseminated fungal infections. Yeast, such as *Candida*, *Cryptococcus* and *Trichosporon*, are recovered by routine blood culture.

Affiliate laboratories with the BD BacTec Blood Culture System should incubate their own Myco/Lytic blood bottles and only send to McLendon Clinical Laboratories when positive. When sending positive bottles, please indicate on the packing list the bottle is positive. Positive bottles should be couriered ASAP and at room temperature.

Affiliate laboratories with the bioMerieux BacT/ALERT system should send the bottles to McLendon Labs for incubation. Unincubated bottles should be couriered at room temperature and must be received by McLendon Labs within 24 hours of collection.

ALL Myco/Lytic bottles should be transported using the BD BACTEC 9000 Bottle Holder, shown here. Affiliate laboratories can obtain holders by emailing [Meghan.Cleinmark@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Meghan.Cleinmark@unchealth.unc.edu) or [Cher.Wilson@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Cher.Wilson@unchealth.unc.edu).

Questions can be directed to the UNCMC Microbiology Processing Area (984-974-1805) or Dr. Melissa Miller at [Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu](mailto:Melissa.Miller@unchealth.unc.edu).

