



MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. S. Kazimi, Laboratory Medical Director, Stevenson Memorial Hospital
Dr. John Doucet, Chief, Pathology Mackenzie Health

FROM: Dr. D. Yamamura, Head of Bacteriology and Mycology
Dr. M. Smieja, Discipline Director for Microbiology

RE: **Changes to negative blood culture reporting**

DATE: **August 30, 2016**

For all blood cultures that are referred to the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program, a NEGATIVE blood culture report will be issued after 24 hours and 48 hours incubation from the time the blood culture set **is received** in the Microbiology Department at the Hamilton General Hospital. Previously a preliminary NEGATIVE report was issued after 48 hours incubation only.

Starting **August 31, 2016**, the following reports will be issued:

- No growth after 24 hours.
Incubation of blood culture bottles in progress

- No growth after 48 hours.
Incubation of blood culture bottles in progress.
A further report will be issued if the culture is positive.

An additional report will only be issued if the culture becomes positive or when the negative blood culture is finalized. Blood cultures will be incubated for a total of 5 days for routine blood cultures, 7 days if the clinical information if endocarditis is received, and 14 days if Bartonella is suspected. Serology remains the preferred method to diagnose Bartonella as culture is insensitive.

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. D. Yamamura (905 527-4322 ext 46111) or the Medical Microbiologist on call (905 527-4322 and ask for paging)