



Idaho State Police

Service Since 1939



Colonel Kedrick R. Wills
Director

Brad Little
Governor

To: Idaho Law Enforcement
From: Matthew Gamette, ISP Forensic Services Laboratory System Director
Subject: **Idaho Blood Collection Kit Notification**
Date: May 20, 2022

Due to a serious supply chain issue, Idaho State Police Forensic Services are unable to obtain enough gray-top blood tubes to include two (2) tubes in every kit. Effective immediately, and until the crisis resolves, the kits will contain only one (1) gray-top blood tube for blood collection. We are hoping that this rationing of the tubes will help to prolong the period of time we can provide these tubes to Idaho law enforcement. We have consulted with the Idaho State Police legal counsel regarding this change and have been advised that this does not violate statute or IDAPA rule. We have also done everything we can possibly do with the manufacturer, multiple distributors, and have even contacted our local hospitals and other labs to see about sourcing tubes. We placed our order quite some time ago, but we are experiencing the same thing that most states are experiencing related to sourcing this particular blood tube type. We will keep looking for solutions to resolve this supply chain issue.

The kits containing only one blood tube will have an important notification paper inside stating:

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION:

- Due to current vacutainer tube supply shortages from the manufacturer, only one gray-top vacutainer tube is enclosed for sample collection.
- As set forth in the enclosed instructions, allow the tube to fill to maximum volume.
- Obtain as much blood in the provided gray-top tube as possible if maximal tube volume cannot be reached.
- We request that you do not take a tube from another kit unless the initial vacutainer tube had inadequate vacuum to collect the first blood sample.

There is also a sticker on the outside of any box with only one tube to note that for the agency.

Finally, in our Prelog evidence system, there has been a question/affirmation added stating, “when the submitted blood kit only contains one blood tube, the submitting agency and prosecuting attorney stipulate upon submission that ISPFSS can open and consume the sample, as necessary, from the submitted tube to run the necessary methods selected by the ISPFSS analyst.” This will be a required affirmation for your agency to make before we will accept the submission on these “one-tube” cases.

Law enforcement or prosecutors are welcome to email me at matthew.gamette@isp.idaho.gov or call me at 208-884-7217 with any questions or comments. I would be happy to refer you to our legal counsel or to our alcohol or toxicology discipline leader if I am not able to answer your questions.

700 S. Stratford Drive • Meridian, Idaho 83642-6202

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