

MLS Laboratory Update: Call for Cases – *Burkholderia cepacia* Complex Following Ultrasound Guided Procedures

OCTOBER 15, 2026

Purpose of this Message:

To inform healthcare providers and laboratorians about the ongoing Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) investigation into *Burkholderia cepacia* complex (Bcc) infections identified among patients who underwent transrectal ultrasound-guided prostate biopsy.

Action Item:

As part of case-finding, CDC is requesting that clinicians and healthcare facilities notify their state health department about patients who meet the following criteria:

- Newly diagnosed Bcc infection confirmed by culture from blood or urine (including isolates reported as *B. contaminans* or Bcc without species-level identification); **AND**
- Specimen collected on or after April 1, 2026; **AND**
- Transrectal ultrasound-guided prostate biopsy, or another endocavitary ultrasound-guided procedure involving biopsy, aspiration, or needle penetration of underlying tissue, performed on or after April 1, 2026, and before collection of the positive blood or urine specimen.

Background:

Burkholderia cepacia complex (Bcc) comprises a group of closely related gram-negative bacteria found in environmental sources, including soil and water, that have been associated with healthcare outbreaks. In September 2026, a jurisdiction outside of Minnesota notified CDC of a cluster of Bcc urinary tract and bloodstream infections following transrectal ultrasound-guided prostate biopsies performed at multiple urology clinics during July – September 2026. Available isolates were subsequently identified as *Burkholderia contaminans* part of the Bcc. CDC seeks to identify potentially related cases in other jurisdictions.

Action Item Details:

Case Reporting:

Notify MDH of culture result: Britt Bailey, brittney.bailey@state.mn.us

Please include:

- Specimen Collection Date
- Specimen Source
- Facility Name
- Contact Name
- Contact Phone/Email
- Available information regarding the procedure, including procedure type, procedure date, healthcare setting where the procedure was performed, and aqueous products used during the procedure (e.g., ultrasound gel, lubricating jelly) with manufacturer name, lot number, and expiration date.

Isolate Submission:

Please retain patient isolates for possible submission to CDC for laboratory testing.

Additional Information:

As a reminder, healthcare providers should report infections that might be associated with a medical product to FDA's [MedWatch Program \(https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program\)](https://www.fda.gov/safety/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program) and to the product manufacturer. Of note, this reporting is not limited to the case-finding period specified above.

Contacts:

If you have any questions about this investigation, please contact MDH Epidemiologist, Britt Bailey at brittney.bailey@state.mn.us.

If you have laboratory questions, please contact MDH Microbiology Supervisor, Paula Snippes Vagnone at paula.snippes@state.mn.us

Thank You,

Paula M. (Snippes) Vagnone, MT (ASCP)
Microbiology Unit Supervisor, AR Lab Network Central Region Coordinator
Public Health Laboratory, Minnesota Department of Health
Phone: 651-201-5581
Paula.snippes@state.mn.us

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Minnesota Laboratory System
Minnesota Department of Health, Public Health Laboratory

601 Robert St. N, St. Paul, MN 55164-0899

651-201-5200

health.mnlabsystem@state.mn.us

www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/idlab/mls/index.html

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