

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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June 5, 2023

To: All Individuals Responsible for the Collection, Handling and Submission of Toxicology
Blood Kit Evidence

RE: MN BCA blood kit shortage

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to nationwide interruptions in the supply of blood specimen collection tubes the US FDA has placed blood collection tubes on its medical device shortage list.

As a direct result of this shortage the State of MN's contracted vendor for toxicology blood collection kits has been unable to fill the BCA Forensic Science Service's orders. The BCA FSS is working closely with the vendor and expects to receive a partial order of kits in the near future.

The BCA FSS does not currently have toxicology blood collection kits to provide to agencies.

Until the BCA FSS obtains toxicology blood collection kits the following conservation strategies are recommended:

- Use kits until the expiration date (using most recent expiration dates first)
- Agencies that have a surplus of unused, unexpired kits are encouraged to share with agencies that are in need of kits, or notify the BCA of their surplus
- For training purposes use expired kits
- Gray topped tubes from hospitals or clinics that contain a mixture of potassium oxalate and sodium fluoride may be used
- Post mortem kits can be used if the collector has access to a finer gauge needle

For DWI cases submitted through eCharging, if a postmortem kit or hospital tubes are used to collect blood, a kit number (B#####) will be needed. Please contact the BCA Lab at 651-793-2900 to obtain a kit number for eCharging and record this number on the evidence to be submitted. Please follow the current practice of entering all information into eCharging prior to submitting kit to the Lab.

For cases where a blood kit collection form is needed. A blank form can be downloaded from the BCA website – See QR code below.

<https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/bca/bca-divisions/forensic-science/Pages/toxicology-alcohol.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Jody K. Nelson
Brent Nelson
Forensic Science Supervisors

cc: Staci Bennett Assistant Laboratory Director

