



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services  
**HEALTH ALERT NETWORK**  
**Advisory**

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DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

TO: Nebraska Healthcare Providers, Laboratories, Health Care Facilities, Infection Control, Hematology, ERs, Critical Care, Oncology, Pathologists, and Public Health

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RE: Multi-state outbreak of *Serratia marcescens* bloodstream infections

DATE: April 30, 2018

**Background:**

CDC, state and local health departments, and FDA are investigating an ongoing multi-state outbreak of *Serratia marcescens* bloodstream infections. Molecular testing of clinical isolates from patients in 3 states (CO, TN, and OH) has resulted in an indistinguishable or closely related pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) pattern, suggesting a possible shared exposure. The infections are primarily among pediatric patients with central venous access. Common exposures identified include heparin and saline flushes, specifically, PosiFlush Pre-Filled Heparin Lock Flush Syringes (10 USP units/mL **and** 100 USP units/ml) and PosiFlush Sterile Field Saline Flush Syringes, all manufactured by BD. No products have tested positive for *S. marcescens* to date. Product testing is ongoing; other products cannot be ruled out at this time. Out of an abundance of caution, BD is voluntarily recalling certain lots of BD PosiFlush™ Heparin Lock Flush and BD™ Pre-Filled Normal Saline Flush syringes due to this potential contamination with *S. marcescens*.

Additional information and a list of the recalled products and lot numbers can be found here:  
<http://www.bd.com/en-us/support/alerts-and-notice/medical-device-recall-for-bd-posiflush-heparin-lock-flush-syringes-and-bd-pre-filled-normal-saline-syringes>.

**Recommendations:**

- Clinicians, laboratories, and healthcare facilities should notify Dr. Maureen Tierney or Dr. Caitlin Pedati when *S. marcescens* is detected from a sterile site specimen (e.g., blood).
- Nebraska laboratories are requested to hold *S. marcescens* isolates (especially from children) from sterile site specimens for potential follow-up testing at the NPHL.
- Clinicians and healthcare facilities that use PosiFlush Pre-Filled Heparin Lock Flush Syringes (10 USP units/mL **and** 100 USP units/ml) or PosiFlush Sterile Field Saline Flush Syringes manufactured by BD might consider using alternative products, if possible.

This investigation is ongoing. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact:

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