



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Public Safety

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory

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### Blood Collection Kit Notification

July 2, 2021

Due to a shortage of grey top blood tubes, the blood collection kits provided by the Alaska Scientific Crime Detection Laboratory have been in short supply and new kits are currently backordered. There is currently a two-tiered plan to address this shortage until new kits arrive.

First, to increase supply, the existing 4-tube collection kits have been opened and two tubes removed to create additional 2-tube collection kits. Both the original kits and new kits contain necessary draw supplies and have been sealed by Crime Laboratory staff.

The 4-tube kit was developed when samples were sent to Washington State Patrol for drug toxicology testing based on the blood volume requirements for their testing methods. Drug toxicology testing is now performed at the Alaska Public Health Laboratory and their testing does not require the same blood volume. 2-tube collection kits will provide sufficient volume for blood alcohol and drug toxicology testing while reserving one tube for independent testing. If during the draw the phlebotomist is unable to fill the tubes a second kit can be used to provide additional volume.

Second, if the current supply of blood collection kits runs out, additional kits will be prepared using a batch of expired, gray top blood tubes. Analysts at the Crime Laboratory and Public Health Laboratory can testify to results obtained from blood collected in expired tubes if these tubes are used for collection in a case. Blood collection kits prepared with expired tubes will be marked on the outside of the kit indicating they contain expired tubes and will be replaced as soon as new kits are received.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandi M. Barnett".

Brandi M. Barnett  
Scientific Director,  
Blood and Breath Alcohol Program