



## **Reporting Failed Spore Tests**

### **When to Do Spore Testing**

A biological spore test must be done:

- At least once every 2 weeks. Best practice is to test the sterilizer daily.
- For loads with implantable devices used in body modification. The load must be held until the results are available.
- After two failed temperature sensitive indicator tests

### **Spore Test Results**

- A passed (negative) spore test means the sterilizer is working properly.
- A failed (positive) spore test means the sterilizer is not working properly.
- Keep copies of the spore test results for three years with a minimum of one year (365 days) on site.  
\*\*Do not use sterilized items or instruments until AFTER you receive the passed (negative) spore test results\*\*

### **Three Consecutive Spore Tests Must be Conducted if**

- The sterilizer fails a spore test.
  - Mechanical malfunctions such as incorrect temperatures or times.
  - A new autoclave is used.
  - The autoclave has been repaired.
  - The business moves to a new fixed location.
  - After power outages or emergencies such as fires, floods.
- The sterilizer must not be used until the results of the tests are received and all pass (negative)

### **Positive Spore Tests**

If the sterilizer fails (spore test is positive) stop using the sterilizer immediately.

- Do not use items from failed load.
- Do not use items processed after the last passed spore test.
- Use purchased, pre-packaged, sterile items.
- Contact Toronto Public Health.

### **Report All Failed (Positive) Spore Tests to the BodySafe Program, Toronto Public Health**

**By telephone**

Monday to Friday

8:30 am – 4:30 pm

**Tel:** 416-338-BODY(2639)

After Hours, Weekends, and Statutory Holidays

Tel: 3-1-1

Tel: 416-392-2489 (Outside Toronto)

**By email**

[BodySafe@toronto.ca](mailto:BodySafe@toronto.ca)

If reporting by email, include the following information. If reporting by phone, have this information ready when you call:

- Last passed spore test result date
- Your name and telephone number
- Name of your Toronto Public Health Inspector, if available.

Questions/inquiries? Please contact BodySafe at [BodySafe@toronto.ca](mailto:BodySafe@toronto.ca) or 416-338-BODY(2639).