



Health Unit

Service de

santé publique

Sterilization log sheet

Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Start Time	End Time	Cycle Length	Temp °C/°F	Pressure	*Colour change (Y/N)	Operator's Initials
Comments:							
Comments:							
Comments:							
Comments:							
Comments:							
Comments:							
Comments:							
Comments:							
* Temperature constitue indicator							

* Temperature-sensitive indicator

Biweekly spore strip tests submitted:

YYYY-MM-DD

YYYY-MM-DD

YYYY-MM-DD

Received:

YYYY-MM-DD

YYYY-MM-DD

YYYY-MM-DD

Please note:

1) Pressure cookers, glass-bead sterilizers, microwaves, U.V. sterilizers, boiling water and dry-heat domestic ovens are NOT approved means of sterilizing. An autoclave is one acceptable means of sterilization. 2) The manufacturer's instructions for the sterilizing equipment must be onsite and easily accessible. 3) A record book for monitoring each load placed in the sterilizer (temperature, pressure and cycle length) must be maintained for a minimum of five years, with the last 12 months onsite. 4) Biweekly spore strip test results must be kept for a minimum of five years, with the last 12 months onsite. 5) In the event of a failed spore test contact the Sudbury & District Health Unit immediately upon notification from the laboratory.

MONITORING STERILIZATION What to do after a positive (failed) biological spore test

Negative (passed) test results (no spore growth) indicate that the mechanical sterilizer is operating properly.

Positive (failed) test

results (spore growth observed) mean the sterilizer has failed and is not operating effectively. The risk of spread of pathogens between clients is minimized when proper cleaning and sterilization of instruments is done, whether in a personal service setting or a clinical setting. To ensure that the autoclave is functioning correctly, monitoring of the physical (time, temperature, and pressure), chemical (colour changing tape/label) and biological (spore test challenge) parameters must be performed on a schedule in line with the Best Practice Guidelines for the setting. All autoclave runs must be monitored and recorded on a sterilization log sheet.

In the event of a positive (failed) biological spore test STOP use of this sterilizer and use an alternative method of sterilization or single-use/ disposable sterile instruments until the sterilizer has been challenged and has shown it is in proper working order. See steps 3 and 4 in "What to do in the event of a positive (failed) spore test".

Sterilizers must then continue to be challenged with a spore test as per the best practice guidelines for the setting.

What to do in the event of a positive (failed) spore test:

- 1. STOP use of this sterilizer immediately and initiate your written backup plan.
- 2. Immediately contact the Health Unit at 705.522.9200, ext. 464 or toll-free 1.866.522.9200 upon notification from the laboratory.
- 3. Repeat the test. Do not release any items that were processed since the last negative passed test. If this repeat test is negative, and there is not an indication of a system malfunction based on physical and chemical parameters - continue as normal.
- 4. If it has been determined that the sterilizer malfunctioned, have it repaired and then biologically tested until three consecutive negative results are obtained.
- 5. If the repeat test yields a FAILED result, review all items that were processed since the last negative test.
- 6. Complete a report that includes time, date, load description, results of mechanical and chemical monitoring and contact the Sudbury & District Health Unit to facilitate the conduction of a risk assessment.

For more information please call the Health Unit at 705.522.9200 or toll-free 1.866.522.9200.