

ALLINA HEALTH LABORATORY

Memo

To: Allina Health Laboratory outreach clients

From: Allina Health Laboratory outreach services

Date: October 4, 2021

Re: Critical shortage of blood collection tubes

To know

There is critical nation-wide shortage of blood collection tubes that is anticipated to extend through the end of the year. All blood collection tubes used for laboratory testing are currently at risk for falling below the supply levels needed for patient specimen collections.

If conservation strategies are implemented, we will be able to extend the days on hand supply, allowing the ability to continue to offer critical testing to your patients.

To do

In order to conserve our limited supplies, please follow these conservation strategies beginning immediately. *If conservation efforts are not implemented and followed, we may not have tubes available to supply for sample collections.*

- **Discontinue collecting any extra tubes**
 - If there is not an order for a test, an extra tube should *not* be drawn.
- **Conserve tube usage**
 - Help to balance the usage of tubes for chemistry testing: lithium heparin light green (PST) tubes, gold tubes, red tubes and dark green tubes.
 - At this time, there is more availability of gold tubes than there is of PST tubes. Whenever possible, draw chemistry testing in a gold top tube.
 - Refer to the Allina Health Laboratory [Test catalog](#) for information on which collection tube/sample types are acceptable for each test

If you have questions about any of the information included in this communication, contact your account representative for assistance.