



Date

Dear Laboratory Director:

I am following up on an earlier request to ask you to please complete the American Society for Microbiology (ASM) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Blood Culture Contamination Laboratory Practice baseline survey if you have not done so already. Participation is completely voluntary and all survey responses will be kept anonymous. The survey requires a computer with Internet access and should take no more than 35 minutes to complete. To access the survey, enter <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3Y9Z38P> into your browser; your responses are requested by (date TBD upon OMB approval).

The respondent should be a microbiology supervisor if employed at your laboratory. If not, the respondent can be either the laboratory director or laboratory manager. In order to ensure the best possible statistical analysis, we request that only one person per laboratory responds to the survey. In order to assure this, the respondent will be asked to enter the 10-digit CLIA number for your laboratory, as indicated on your CLIA certificate. The CLIA number will be used to assure that there is only one response per laboratory and to link this baseline survey to a follow-up survey that will be disseminated in approximately six months. **The CLIA number will not be used to identify or rate the performance of any laboratory or individual. At the conclusion of the study, all CLIA numbers and email addresses collected will be de-linked from the survey results and will not be stored in a database.**

The survey responses will guide our efforts and assist in the long term goals of reducing hospital costs and improving patient care and safety throughout the country. On behalf of ASM and CDC, thank you for your participation! If you have any questions, please email clinmicro@asmusa.org.

Sincerely,

Alice S. Weissfeld, Ph.D., D(ABMM), F(AAM)
Chair, ASM's Committee on Evidence-based Laboratory Medicine Practice Guidelines