

College of American Pathologists Recertifies Lab for Eighth Consecutive Time in 14 Years

The College of American Pathologists (CAP) has accredited the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Beryllium Testing Laboratory for the eighth time since the laboratory's first accreditation in 2009.

The biennial CAP accreditation process requires an onsite inspection of all procedures and processes as well as the laboratory's records. During this process, inspectors thoroughly examine staff qualifications, equipment, facilities, safety program and records, and overall management.

"The CAP accreditation program remains one of the most stringent lab certification programs recognized by the federal government, and we are proud to have maintained our accreditation for the past 14 years as we continue to provide excellence in beryllium testing," said the laboratory's technical director, Donna Cragle, Ph.D.

New on the ORISE Website: How to Submit Blood Samples for Beryllium Testing

Did you know that the [Beryllium Testing Laboratory](#) can test and process between 600-800 beryllium lymphocyte proliferation tests each month? As you can imagine, ensuring that the lab has the best possible specimen for each test is paramount for exceptional performance and for identifying workers who may be at greater risk for developing chronic beryllium disease due to beryllium exposure.

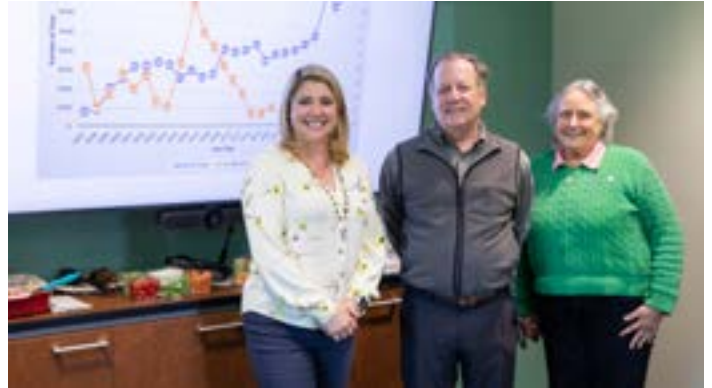
Now a new video has been added to the [ORISE](#) website, providing step-by-step instructions for properly collecting, packaging, and shipping blood samples.

In addition to helping increase efficiencies and minimize delays in reporting results, the process illustrated in the video also helps to ensure compliance with the International Air Transport Association's shipping standards for dangerous goods.

Check out this new video today!

<https://vimeo.com/770877340/a78291a2e1>

Lab Welcomes Dr. Michael Alday as New Clinical Consultant



Pictured left to right: Dr. Ashley Golden (Director, ORISE Health Studies), Dr. Michael Alday (Clinical Consultant), and Dr. Donna Cragle (Laboratory Director)

Michael A. Alday, MD, MPH is a board-certified occupational medicine physician. He is currently the Medical Director for CMG Healthworks at the Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Dr. Alday's duties as the ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory's Clinical Consultant will include reviewing and confirming abnormal beryllium lymphocyte proliferation test (BeLPT) results. He will also serve as a contact for ordering physicians requesting medical clarification for ordering BeLPTs, and as a medical reference for questions concerning patient conditions. His years serving the occupational health community are vital to the quality of lab operations and the patients it serves.

We thank Dr. Alday for joining the ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory team!

Laboratory Building Safety Improvement

The ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory increased its safety, security, and ease of operation by in-stalling an intercom at the front door and badge keypad at the back door. The intercom with camera installed at the front door increases safety for lab building occupants. This is handy for the rare occasion of an unplanned or unknown visitor. The badge keypad installed at the back door allows employees to enter without having to use the front door.

Record Keeping Process Improvement for the Lab

Records for quality control, instrument service, staff competency, and patient records need to be kept for reviews and audits. Some of these records are kept for up to 75 years. That's a lot of paper and information! ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory staff identified that the current system needed to be improved and took on the reorganization of all records. Maintaining the lab's high quality requires constant process improvement. Reorganization of the lab's paperwork and logbooks will allow space for incoming paperwork and will make it easier to archive records and to locate needed records quickly. In the image below, Sara Dodson demonstrates the new system to fellow co-workers.



Helpful Tip: WinZip vs 7Zip

The ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory uses zip files to encrypt patient results in emails to customers. WinZip is commonly used to decrypt the results in the zip file. WinZip is commercial software originally released in 1991 and direct support is available via WinZip's website. WinZip is widely known to IT professionals.

7Zip is another option for those customers that have not purchased WinZip. 7Zip is a free open-source software that was first released in 1999 and has been constantly updated since. There is no direct support for the software from 7Zip. Some customers may not be permitted to use this open-source software because of their IT policies.

Both programs work to decrypt the doctor's report results in the zip file.

Lab Adds Novi Survey

Along with many other changes after the pandemic, the ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory noted that some of our customer contacts have changed. To help new staff (both customer and lab staff) the lab sent out a Novi Survey prior to yearly password change updates. The Novi Survey is an online survey and data collection tool that allows our customers to securely submit information based on parameters we define, such as who in the organization is authorized to receive the doctor's report. Novi allows us to collect this important information in real time and update our records with the user-submitted data. Fields of the survey include names, phone numbers, and email addresses of the primary contact and any personnel that receive results. Having the most current contact information will ensure all communications are getting to the appropriate staff in our customers' organization.

Going forward, the Novi Survey will be sent twice a year: once in January (prior to yearly password change updates) and again at the end of August. We can serve our customers better if we have current contact information.

And Finally...

Twining at the Lab!



Pictured left to right: Ann Gehl (Laboratory Manager) and Melissa Jones (Associate Laboratory Manager)



ORISE Beryllium Testing Laboratory

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