

STERILIZATION MONITORING SERVICE

# NEWSLETTER

## RESULTS in 24 hours

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recommends a conventional 7-day incubation period for a spore test to determine if it is negative. To date, SMS has used this 7-day incubation time for all spore tests. A recent validation study was completed at SMS to document a reduced incubation time for spore tests processed in steam sterilizers. This validation study utilized a test method provided by International Organization of Standardization (ISO) 11138.8:2021 and approved by the FDA to Reduce Incubation Time (RIT).

Based on the results of this RIT validation study --- SMS will now finalize and report testing on steam heat sterilizers within 24 hours of processing your spore test. This study is only valid for spore tests that are used to monitor moist heat sterilization and does not apply to chemical vapor or dry heat sterilization. Chemical vapor and dry heat sterilizers continue to require a 7-day incubation period.

**BREAKING  
NEWS**



# HOW to REPORT

## IMPROVED DOCUMENTATION

Until now, you have been asked to document any non-tests on your office testing log. A new addition to the SMS portal now allows you to document both the non-test and the reason online. This information appears on the SMS monthly report as "not tested" with the reason why. This allows for a more detailed week-by-week testing documentation.

NEW  
NEW  
NEW  
NEW

### WHAT is a non-test?

A non-test includes any deviation from your normal schedule of testing (one test per week, per sterilizer). Examples include if your office is closed for the week, or, if any sterilizer is not working and under repair.

### WHAT about a loaner unit?

A loaner unit still requires testing. If using a loaned unit, DO NOT report a non-test; instead write "loaner" on the test envelope and submit as usual.

### WHERE do I report a non-test?

To report all non-tests online go to [go.osu.edu/smsportal](https://go.osu.edu/smsportal) and log-in. For step-by-step printable instructions with screenshots, visit [go.osu.edu/sms](https://go.osu.edu/sms).

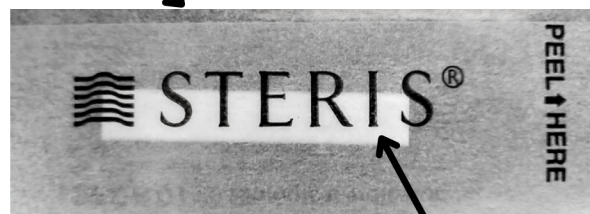
### WHEN do I report a non-test?

A non-test must be reported online on the day of normal testing (on the same day that the test would normally be run)

### WHAT do I report online?

Once you identify the piece of equipment, information is entered into a comments box. The date of the non-test and the reason for not testing is entered.

protective  
envelope



spore strip

## TIPS on STRIPS

### SPORE STRIP TIPS

- do not "peel here"
- do not remove spore strip from protective envelope
- do not submit strip if removed from protective envelope
- do not use if past expiration date



FREE CE = 😊

### COMING IN AUGUST

The summer SMS CE self-study course will be released in mid-August. This free 2 credit hour course topic is **ALL ABOUT the CAVITRON**. Everything you need to know from how and why to choose the correct ultrasonic insert to trouble-shooting to common issues is covered. Easy-to-follow summary tables for quick reference and links to multiple resources are included.

## BUNDLE & SAVE

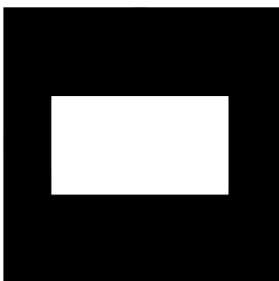


### SAVE \$50

Order spore tests and integrator strips at the same time and save! Order 52 spore tests and **receive a 20% discount** when ordering 1000 STERIS Verify® Steam Integrating Indicator Strips, regularly priced at \$250. Check and compare what you are paying for 1000 integrator strips --- our discounted price is less.

Integrator strips are recommended for use in every load run in a steam sterilizer. Integrator strips are used to confirm if all parameters (time, temperature, saturated steam) needed for steam sterilization are met in each load. This allows for a confident release of sterilized instruments while awaiting spore test results.

## MEET with US



### NOW AVAILABLE

Problems with spore test failures? Need help with online ordering? We can help. **Contact us for a free consultation.** Set up a Zoom or phone consultation with one of our experienced SMS team members to assist you with all of your testing issues.

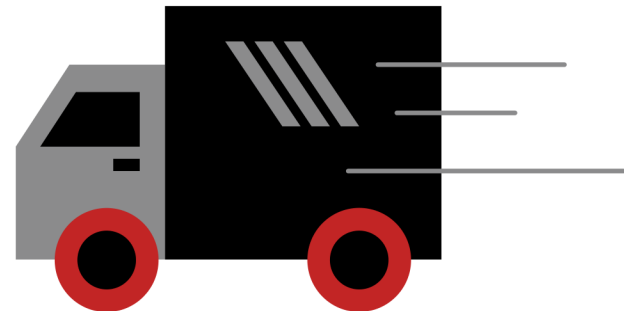


## CLICK to ORDER

### COMING IN AUGUST

SMS online ordering will be available 24/7. Log into your current SMS account for **secure, convenient, and easy-to-use online ordering.** Online orders are processed more rapidly than phone orders or orders received by mail. Payment is handled by a secured third-party and shipping status can be checked online in real time.

## LESS TIME & COST



### IMPROVED DELIVERY SERVICE

To avoid the unpredictable delays associated with the United States Postal Service (USPS) delivery of orders, SMS is now using the United Parcel Service. **UPS allows for fast, dependable delivery** in less time and at a lower cost than USPS. Look for your orders to arrive in a cardboard UPS box.

# RUMOR HAS IT.



This is a new feature included in our SMS newsletters. Hopefully, this format will make our gentle reminders a little more interesting.

## RUMOR #1

**We didn't receive any labels for our test envelopes!**

**UNLIKELY or NOT TRUE.**

Every order includes labels. With our quality control checks in place, it is unlikely that you were not sent labels. Please check the UPS box that contains your order for a large 9" x 12" white envelope that is marked with "do not discard". Your sheet of client labels along with instructions and other important information is enclosed in this envelope.

## RUMOR #2

**There is no real urgency for our office to mail a completed spore test.**

**Definitely NOT TRUE.**

Mail your completed spore test on the same day that it is run in the sterilizer. Delays in mailing result in a longer time before you can receive notification of any failures. Delays in mailing may also lengthen the often-unpredictable mail times provided by the US Post Office.

## RUMOR #3

**We can wait until we are completely out of all test envelopes to order more.**

**So, so, so NOT TRUE.**

If you wait until you are out of envelopes, there is no guarantee that you will receive your processed order in time for your next weekly test date. As of early 2022, you now receive email reminders 60 days before you are due to run out of tests, and then again at 30 days.

## RUMOR #4

**Expiration dates on spore strips do not matter.**

**Absolutely NOT TRUE.**

Do not use ANY expired spore strips. To be in compliance with weekly testing, your spore strips cannot be expired.

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# SMS

sterilization monitoring service