November 2022

Dear Valued BIOFIRE® FILMARRAY® Customer,

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that bioMérieux has received an increased number of reports of unconfirmed *Cryptosporidium* results (i.e. "false positive" results) from customers using the BIOFIRE® FILMARRAY® Gastrointestinal (GI) Panel.

bioMérieux is investigating patient specimens obtained from the CDC in collaboration with the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL) and from other health organizations in order to identify the cause of these unconfirmed *Cryptosporidium* results.

The BIOFIRE GI Panel contains two assays for the detection of *Cryptosporidium*: Crypt 1 and Crypt 2. The investigation has revealed that a subset of the unconfirmed *Cryptosporidium* results appear to be caused by a previously unknown non-specific product that is being generated by the Crypt 2 assay. This amplification product is being erroneously interpreted as "positive" by the software, leading to a *Cryptosporidium* Detected result. To date, this rare non-specific product has been primarily observed in a small fraction of patient samples and there has been no correlation to specific reagent lots, instruments, or Cary Blair media.

bioMérieux is developing a software update to mitigate the erroneous interpretation of the non-specific Crypt 2 assay product. However, the timeline for implementing the software update will be contingent upon regulatory agency review.

Based on this investigation, bioMérieux is offering the following interim guidance:

If *Cryptosporidium* is reported as Detected and the Crypt 1 Assay is positive, or if both Crypt 1 and Crypt 2 assays are positive, then no action is needed. If the organism is reported as Detected and **only** the Crypt 2 assay is positive, then it is possible that this result is a false positive and therefore it should be confirmed by another method that meets the laboratory criteria for cryptosporidiosis diagnosis[1] (see Table 1 below). Your state or local public health laboratory may be able to help you identify alternative testing options. Instructions for locating the assay interpretations within the software can be found at the following link: www.biofiredx.qarad.eifu.online/ITI/all/?keycode=ITIGI1952.

[1] https://ndc.services.cdc.gov/case-definitions/cryptosporidiosis-2012/

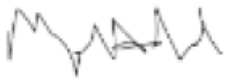
Table 1 - GI Panel Cryptosporidium Interpretation

BIOFIRE GI Panel *Cryptosporidium* Interpretation	**Crypt 1 Assay**	**Crypt 2 Assay**	**Description**
Cryptosporidium: Not Detected	Negative	Negative	No *Cryptosporidium* species detected. No action required.
Cryptosporidium: Detected	Positive	Positive	*Cryptosporidium* species detected. No action required.
Cryptosporidium: Detected	Positive	Negative	*Cryptosporidium* species detected. No action required.
Cryptosporidium: Detected	Negative	Positive	**Confirm with another method if there is suspicion of a false positive result.**

Reports of false positive *Cryptosporidium* cases are being closely monitored from the field by bioMérieux. To date, the observed rate of false positive results is very low and remains within the BIOFIRE GI Panel's claimed performance.

The BIOFIRE GI Panel results are meant to be used in conjunction with other clinical, laboratory, and epidemiological data. At this time, customers should confirm *Cryptosporidium* detections when only the Crypt 2 assay is positive. If you suspect a discordant result with *Cryptosporidium* or any other target, please contact the Customer Technical Support team via email at biofiresupport@biomerieux.com or via telephone by dialing +1.801.736.6354 and selecting option 5 for product technical support.

Sincerely,



Mari Hoidal
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