



Department
of Health

JAMES V. McDONALD, MD, MPH
Commissioner



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Michelle Morse, MD, MPH
Acting Health Commissioner

DATE: May 22, 2025

TO: Hospitals, Laboratories, Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Infectious Disease, Infection Control Practitioners, Hospital Epidemiologists, Urgent Care, Primary Care, Directors of Nursing, Medical Imaging Practices, Local Health Departments

FROM: New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control (BCDC) and New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (NYC Health Department)

HEALTH ADVISORY:

Non-Sterile Ultrasound Gel Contaminated with *Paraburkholderia fungorum*

SUMMARY

- A recent Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) alert describes reports of *Paraburkholderia fungorum* associated with the use of non-sterile ultrasound gel from multiple states during 2024–2025.
- Healthcare providers should avoid non-sterile ultrasound gel in preparation for or during percutaneous procedures.

Dear Colleagues,

We are writing to inform you about an ongoing multistate investigation regarding non-sterile ultrasound gel contaminated with *Paraburkholderia fungorum*, an environmental bacterium.

CDC recently released an [alert](#) describing multiple patients with blood cultures growing *P. fungorum* associated with non-sterile ultrasound gel used for percutaneous procedures. It appears that these positive cultures are the result of contamination of culture specimens during collection (likely due to incomplete removal of contaminated gel from the skin) rather than invasive infection. To date, there have been at least 40 isolates of *P. fungorum* from blood cultures since September 2024 in the United States. These isolates are linked by whole genome sequencing and are also genetically related to *P. fungorum* isolated from at least two non-sterile ultrasound gel products manufactured by NEXT Medical Products Company.

Note the following CDC recommendations:

1. Use only single-use ultrasound gel products labeled “sterile” for ultrasonography in preparation for or during percutaneous procedures (procedures that involve puncturing the skin, such as placement of central and peripheral intravenous lines, amniocentesis, paracentesis, tissue biopsy, and surgical procedures).
2. Healthcare providers who perform ultrasounds and/or ultrasound-assisted procedures should be trained in the appropriate use of ultrasound gel products.
3. An ultrasound gel product label’s claim of “bacteriostatic” or “preservative” without a specific indication of sterility should be considered non-sterile for clinical purposes.

NYC healthcare providers can contact the NYC Health Department’s Provider Access Line at 866-692-3641 or 347-396-7995 with any questions or concerns. Healthcare providers outside NYC should contact their [regional epidemiologist](#). General questions about this advisory may be sent to icp@health.ny.gov.

References:

Alert: Use Only Sterile Ultrasound Gel for Percutaneous Procedures. CDC. Available at <https://www.cdc.gov/healthcare-associated-infections/bulletins/outbreak-ultrasound-gel.html#print>

New York State Department of Health Regional Health Departments.
https://www.health.ny.gov/professionals/diseases/reporting/communicable/infection/regional_epi_staff.htm