STEPS TO INVESTIGATE A POSITIVE BIOLOGICAL INDICATOR (I.E. FAILED SPORE TEST)

1st BI test is positive

Place Sterilizer Out of Service (OOS)

Temporarily Quarantine all instruments back to previous Negative BI test

Check printout or electronic recording of physical parameters to verify correct function of sterilizer

Assess for common Operator Errors

Cause of failure is immediately identified, confined to one load or pouch and is immediately corrected

Reprocess the load

Repeat BI spore test on same cycle that produced the Positive BI. Keep sterilizer OOS

2nd BI and BD test is negative

Place sterilizer back in service

2nd BI test is Positive

Work back to the last negative BI test. Retrieve and reprocess all unused items in a different sterilizer

Complete a Look-back report on affected patients, date, time of loads, CI and BI results, and instruments involved

Contact the College or Public Health for assistance on risk assessment and advice on possible contact tracing

2nd BI test is Negative

All repeat tests are Negative

After repair, run 3 consecutive BI PCD tests and for Dynamic Air Removal sterilizers run 3 consecutive Bowie-Dick (BD) tests

Any repeat test is Positive

Have Equipment Service Provider repair OOS sterilizer

Place sterilizer back in service