

MICROBIOLOGY TESTS

Published July 2025



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Test	Mnemonic	Specimen	Turnaround time
Blood cultures			
Blood culture - set 1	BL	Blood	72 - 168 hours
Blood culture - set 2	BL2	Blood	72 - 168 hours
Blood culture - set 3	BL3	Blood	72 - 168 hours
Blood culture paediatric	BLPAED	Blood	72 - 168 hours
Specimens other than blood that can be submitted in blood culture bottles	BLPAED	Abdominal fluid, joint fluid, bursa fluid, dialysis fluid, pericardial fluid, pleural fluid, bone marrow aspirate, stem cells and other miscellaneous aspirated fluid	72 - 528 hours
Catheter tips			
Catheter	CATH	CVP, arterial line tip, other catheter tips (excluding urinary catheter tips)	72 - 120 hours
Other foreign bodies			
Screws, grommets, IUDs, etc.	MCSCUL	Screws, grommets, IUDs, renal stents, ureteric stents, etc.	72 - 288 hours
CSF			
CSF MCS	CSF	CSF	72 - 120 hours
CSF microscopy (Gram stain)			90 minutes
CSF aerobic culture			72 - 144 hours
CSF cell count	CSFC		90 minutes
CSF total protein	TPCSF		90 minutes
CSF glucose	GLCSF		90 minutes
Bacterial capsular antigen	BACTAG		90 minutes
<i>Cryptococcus</i> antigen	CRYPAG	CSF/SERUM	90 minutes
India ink	INDIA	CSF	90 minutes
Genital specimens			
Cervical MCS	CERV	Cervical swab	72 - 120 hours
Semen MCS	SEMEN	Semen	72 - 120 hours
Urethral MCS	URETH	Urethral swab	72 - 120 hours
Vaginal MCS	VAG	Vaginal swab	72 - 120 hours
Eye specimens			
Eye MCS	EYE	Aqueous fluid, vitreous fluid, eye swab, conjunctiva, contact lens	72 - 120 hours
<i>Acanthamoeba</i> culture	EYEACANT	Aqueous fluid, vitreous fluid, eye swab, conjunctiva, contact lens, corneal scrapings	72 - 264 hours
Cornea MCS	CORNEA	Corneal scrapings, donor cornea ring	72 - 120 hours
Lower respiratory specimens			
Sputum MCS	SPUT	Expectorated sputum	72 - 120 hours
LRT MCS	LRT	Bronchial aspirate, bronchial brushings, protected brush bronchoscopy	72 - 120 hours



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BAL/sputum cell count/eosinophils	DIFFRESP	Bronchial aspirate/lavage/washings/brushings/sputum	24 hours
Tracheal MCS	TRA	Endotracheal aspirate	72 - 120 hours
Gastric aspirate MCS	GASP	Gastric aspirate	72 - 120 hours
Upper respiratory specimens			
Nose MCS	NOSE	Nasopharyngeal aspirate, nose swab, nasal secretions	72 - 120 hours
Throat MCS	THROAT	Throat swab, oropharyngeal swab, pharynx, epiglottis swab, tonsil swab, cough swab	72 - 120 hours
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i> culture	CDIPH	Throat	72 - 120 hours
Sinus MCS	SINUS	Antrum, sinus aspirate/swab	72 - 120 hours
Ear MCS	EAR	Ear swab/aspirate/fluid	72 - 120 hours
Oral MCS	ORAL	Mouth swab, tongue swab, tooth swab	72 - 120 hours
Wound/pus/fluids/tissue/milk/miscellaneous			
Pus MCS	PUS	Pus from various sources except those specifically listed in this document	72 - 120 hours
Milk culture	MILKCUL	Breast/formula milk	72 - 120 hours
Tissue	TISS	Tissue from various sources	72 - 312 hours
Fluids	FLUID + FLDC	Abdominal/pericardial/pleural/miscellaneous fluid	72 - 120 hours
Joint MCS	JOINT + FLDC	Joint fluid	72 - 312 hours
Lautenbach irrigation fluid MCS	MCS	Lautenbach irrigation fluid	72 - 192 hours
Dialysis MCS	DIAL + FLDC	Dialysis fluid	72 - 192 hours
Bile MCS	MCS	Bile	72 - 120 hours
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i> culture - Gastric Biopsy only	HPCUL	Gastric biopsy	72 - 240 hours
Parasite examination	PARA	Miscellaneous	24 - 72 hours
Stools			
Stool Adult MCS	STA	Stool	72 - 120 hours
Stool Baby MCS	STB	Stool	72 - 120 hours
Rectal swab	STRECTAL	Rectal swab	72 - 120 hours
Cholera culture	STCHOL	Stool, rectal swab, nappy	72 - 120 hours
Stool parasites	STPARA	Stool	24 - 72 hours
Stool <i>Salmonella</i> culture	STSALM	Stool	72 - 120 hours
Stool <i>Shigella</i> culture	STSHIG	Stool	72 - 120 hours
Stool <i>Salmonella/Shigella</i> culture	STSS	Stool	72 - 120 hours
Stool <i>Microsporidium</i> stain	STMICSP	Stool	72 - 120 hours
Stool <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> antigen	STHP	Stool	180 minutes
Insects/maggots			
Entomological examination	ENTOM	Insects	24-72 hours



Test	Mnemonic	Specimen	Turnaround time
Urines			
Urine bacterial group B <i>Streptococcus</i> antigen	URSTRB	Urine	180 minutes
Urine microscopy, chemistry	URMC	Clean catch midstream urine	180 minutes
Urine microscopy	URMIC	Clean catch midstream urine	180 minutes
Urine macroscopy, microscopy	URMM	Clean catch midstream urine	180 minutes
Urine macroscopy, microscopy, chemistry	URMMC	Clean catch midstream urine	180 minutes
Urine <i>Salmonella</i> culture	URSALM	Clean catch midstream urine	72 - 120 hours
Urine MCS	UR	Clean catch midstream urine	72 - 120 hours
Fungus			
Fungal MCS	FUNG	Various specimens as clinically indicated	72 - 528 hours
Fungal culture only	FUNGCUL	Various specimens as clinically indicated	72 - 528 hours
Fungal MCS (Dermatophytes)	FUNGD	Hair, nails, skin	72 - 528 hours
Screening and Surveillance specimens			
Environmental/sterility culture	ENVCUL	Miscellaneous sources	72 - 120 hours
<i>Acinetobacter</i> culture	ACICUL	As clinically indicated	72 - 120 hours
Carbapenemase screen (admission)	CARBADM	Rectal swab	72 - 120 hours
Carbapenemase screen (follow-up)	CARBA	Rectal swab	72 - 120 hours
Vaginal screen group B <i>Streptococcus</i>	VAGSTRB	Vaginal swab	72 - 120 hours
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> culture	SAUR	Miscellaneous sources: nose, hairline, armpit, groin, MRSA screen	72 - 120 hours
<i>Candida auris</i> screen	CAURSC	As clinically indicated (ideally urine, and swabs of both axillae and groins)	72 - 120 hours
ESBL culture	ESBLCUL	As clinically indicated	72 - 120 hours
Vancomycin resistant <i>Enterococcus</i> culture	ENTCUL	As clinically indicated	72 - 120 hours
<i>Candida</i> colonization index	COLINDEX	At least 5 samples from different sites: stool or rectal swab, urine, respiratory specimen, oropharyngeal swab or gastric aspirate, skin (swab of axilla, inguinal region, nose, or ear), catheter insertion site swab, abdominal drain fluid, and/or wound swab.	72 - 120 hours
<i>Acinetobacter</i> , <i>Pseudomonas</i> , ESBL culture	GNBCUL	As clinically indicated	72 - 120 hours
<i>Acinetobacter</i> , <i>Pseudomonas</i> , ESBL, yeast culture	GNBYCUL	As clinically indicated	72 - 120 hours
Tuberculosis testing			
TB AFB only	TBAFB	Various specimens as clinically indicated	24 hours
TB MCS	TB	Various specimens as clinically indicated	72 - 1032 hours
TB culture	TBCUL	Various specimens as clinically indicated	72 - 1032 hours
TB urine LAM test	TBLAM	Urine	24 - 72 hours



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