



Maine Center for Disease
Control and Prevention

An Office of the
Department of Health and Human Services

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services
Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention
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Dear HETL Client:

HETL announces the addition of *Nisseria meningitidis* PCR to its existing CSF panel that includes Enterovirus, Herpes Simplex 1&2, and Varicella-Zoster Virus. This test can be ordered in conjunction with the existing CSF panel or ordered as a stand alone test. This enhancement provides an important new weapon in our molecular arsenal for disease detection and will be especially useful for clinicians and epidemiologists as a tool to rule in or rule out agents that cause meningitis.

The current HETL Requisition does not have a formal check off for clients wishing to order this test. **Clients wishing to order this test using the current version of the requisition should indicate this test order by writing : “N. meningitidis PCR” in the Additional Information box on the lower right of the current requisition.** The current HETL requisition can be found at our web site:
www.mainepublichealth.gov/lab

Newer versions of the HETL requisition will incorporate check off boxes for this assay.

Information for HETL clients wishing to order *Nisseria meningitidis* PCR for CSF and other assays is available on our website at: http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/etl/micro/submitting_samples.htm

Please feel free to contact HETL regarding this new assay at 207-287-2727.

Sincerely,

Kenneth G. Pote, Ph.D.
Chief of Laboratory Operations
Me-CDC Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory