



Paul R. LePage, Governor Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

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<u>NEISSERIA meningitidis</u> – CSF	
Laboratory Submission Information Sheet	
Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC:	Meningitis due to <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> is a Notifiable Condition.
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen:	No, this is a PCR based screen. In the event a clinical lab isolates <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> , it must send an isolate to HETL for grouping. See Laboratory Submission Information Sheet for N. meningitidis clinical isolates .
Required Information:	Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. Specimen must be labeled with patient name. IMPORTANT: ALL SPECIMENS MUST BE LABELED WITH PATIENT NAME AND BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN HETL REQUISITION Requisition form: PDF
Specimen Requirements:	Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) Submit a minimum of 0.5 ml (1.0 ml preferred) in a leak-proof container soon after onset of illness. Avoid contamination of specimen with blood.
Collection Instructions:	DO NOT DILUTE CSF: Do not use viral or other transport media. Submit specimen in a standard, sterile specimen container.
Specimen Handling and Transport:	Specimens should be shipped with cold packs if they are expected to arrive at HETL within 48 hours. Preferably, following collection, specimens should be stored at refrigerated temp and be transported cold immediately to HETL for testing Samples which are collected more than 72 hours before arrival at HETL should be frozen following collection and remain frozen until testing. Note: Freeze/thaw will compromise bacterial viability. For shipping purposes, clinical specimens are category B
Turn Around Time:	Results are expected within 24 hours after arrival
MeCDC Epidemiologists only	Contact HETL for outbreak kits @ 287-1716
Unacceptable Conditions:	Specimens received without a requisition form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. Specimens in poorly labeled or leaking containers will not be tested.
Results Include:	Positive for <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by PCR PCR Positives reflexed to culture at no charge to submitter Negative for <i>Neserria meningitidis</i> by PCR
Results:	All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.
Laboratory Testing Fee:	With prior authorization from MeCDC, specimens submitted during a possible outbreak will be tested at no cost to the submitter, or patient. PCR - \$104.00
Applicable CPT Codes:	83891(nucleic acid extraction), 83900 (amplification)
Additional Information:	For <i>Neisseria</i> specific questions contact HETL Bacti at 207-287-1704