



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
221 State Street
12 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832
TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Detection of *Neisseria meningitidis* in CSF by Real Time RT PCR

Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Yes: Meningitis due to <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 <i>N. meningitidis</i> clinical isolates.
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Information on requisition must include: test requested, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.• Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) (0.5ml minimum, 1ml preferred). DO NOT DILUTE CSF: Do not use viral or other transport media. Collect specimen in a sterile leak proof container.• Samples should be kept at 2-8°C for short term storage and may be frozen (-70°C) for long term storage.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If they are expected to arrive within 48 hours CSF should be stored and shipped cold (2 - 8°C) .• If they are expected to arrive over 48 hours CSF should be stored and shipped frozen.• Avoid contamination of CSF with blood.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PCR results are generally available within 1 - 3 business days of specimen receipt at HETL
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze.• CSF diluted in Viral Transport Media (VTM) or other transport media• Specimen not refrigerated or not frozen• Incorrect specimen type.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> DNA Detected or Not Detected• Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$110
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 87798
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704• Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706