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## 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"><li>• 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.)</li></ul>
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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.</li></ul>
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information on requisition must include: suspected organism, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information.</li><li>• <b>Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.</b></li></ul>
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) (0.5ml minimum, 1ml preferred). DO NOT DILUTE CSF: Do not use viral or other transport media. Submit specimen in a standard, sterile specimen container.</li><li>• Samples should be kept at 4°C for short term storage and may be frozen (-70°C) for long term storage. Collect specimen in a sterile leak proof container.</li></ul>
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If they are expected to arrive within 48 hours CSF should be stored and shipped cold (2 - 8°C) .</li><li>• If they are expected to arrive over 48 hours CSF should be stored and shipped frozen.</li><li>• Avoid contamination of CSF with blood.</li></ul>
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Results should be expected within 24-48hrs from business days of specimen receipt</li></ul>
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze.</li><li>• Rejection Criteria: CSF or serum diluted in Viral Transport Media (VTM), specimen not refrigerated or not frozen, incorrect specimen type.</li><li>• Do not Freeze/Thaw</li></ul>
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Positive for <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by PCR OR Negative for <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> by PCR</li><li>• PCR Positives reflexed to culture at no charge to submitter</li><li>• All results will be reported only to submitter as stated on requisition via mail or fax.</li></ul>
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• \$110 (Fee waived if testing/identification is part of an outbreak investigation by Maine CDC)</li></ul>
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 87798 (PCR)</li></ul>
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bacteriology at 207-287-1704, Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, and Serology at 207-287-1722</li><li>• Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769</li><li>• Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706</li><li>• CT/GC at 207-287-6244</li></ul>