



Department of Health and Human Services
Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
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Detection Of Mycobacterium Species by Smear and Culture

Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: M. tuberculosis complex 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"> • Yes: Specimens that are AFB positive or specimens from suspect Mycobacteria tuberculosis must be submitted.
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on requisition must include: Patient name, date of birth, date of collection, specimen source, submitter name and contact information. • Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory specimens including expectorated and induced sputum, bronchial and tracheal aspirates, bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial washes, biopsies/tissues, bone, urine, gastric acid, gastric lavage, CSF, whole blood, bone marrow, pleural fluid, acities fluid, synovial fluid, pericardial fluid, peritoneal fluid, stool, and lymph nodes.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect 5-10mL of sample in a sterile and leak proof container (recommend using 50mL conical Falcon tube). Specimens should be refrigerated upon collection. • Samples should arrive to the laboratory within 3 days of collection.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFB smear results will be reported within 1-3 business days upon receipt of specimen. • AFB culture results will be reported once growth is detected/identified or when the 6 week hold time is reached (i.e. No Growth).
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimens that arrive unlabeled will not be tested. • Specimens that are insufficient in quantity will be tested but will be flagged as having an unsatisfactory amount which could adversely affect test results.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition. • Smear: No Acid Fast Bacilli Found, Rare AFB Seen 3-9/Smear, Few AFB Seen 10 or More/Smear, Many AFB Seen - More Than One/Field; Culture Report to Follow. • Culture: AFB Seen: Further ID to Follow, Mycobacterium Species Identified, No Growth at 6 Weeks.
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fee Waived if testing/identification is part of an outbreak investigation by Maine CDC/TB Control • AFB Smear: \$20 • Culture: \$35 • Mycobacterial Identification by 16S Sequencing: \$163
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFB Smear: 87206 • Culture: 87116 • Mycobacterian Identification by 16S Sequencing: 87153
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Mycobacteriology and Rabies Department at 207-287-1706 • Contact TB Control/Maine CDC at 1-800-821-5821