



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