

New York State Dept of Health Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program Instruction Sheet – General

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

Enclosed, please find proficiency test samples for Bacteriology – General. A minimum score of 80% is required to pass each test event. Failure to achieve a score of 80% on two of three consecutive testing events is considered unsuccessful performance.

Upon receipt and prior to testing, store the sample in its original sealed pouch at 2 – 8°C. See enclosed instructions for processing the KWIK-STIK unit.

Protect yourself by proper handling. If any of the specimens are damaged in transit, autoclave the entire set and inform our office at once. If there is any problem with the specimens, you **MUST** inform our office before close of business on **SEPTEMBER 22, 2009** by calling (518) 474-4177.

1. Sample content

Below is a list of all specimens for this test event. Depending on your laboratory's protocol, your shipment may or may not include a sample for Group A *Streptococcus* or *Chlamydia* direct antigen testing. Do not consider quantity or predominance of an organism when reporting. In order to accommodate as many laboratory protocols as possible, the sources listed below are very general. Please note: if, at **any time** (such as a physician's special request), you report a particular organism to the species or serogroup level, then you must report this organism to the same level on the proficiency test. Likewise, if you ever process a particular specimen type, then you must process that specimen type on the proficiency test.

<u>Specimen:</u>	<u>Report:</u>	<u>Source:</u>
1	Pathogen(s) ¹ ONLY	Stool - Rule out ALL enteric pathogens ²
2	Pathogen(s) ¹ ONLY	Sputum
3	ALL Organism(s) Aerobic / Anaerobic	Wound
4	ALL Organism(s) and Antibiotic Susceptibility	CSF
5	Pathogen(s) ¹ ONLY	Throat
<i>Chlamydia</i> Direct Detection	Pos/Neg for <i>Chlamydia</i>	Cervix for <i>C. trachomatis</i>
Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> Antigen Detection	Pos/Neg for Group A <i>Streptococcus</i>	Throat for Group A <i>Streptococcus</i>

¹ For proficiency testing purposes, an organism should be reported as a pathogen if it is generally considered by the medical community to cause disease when recovered from the specimen source indicated.

² Rule out ALL enteric pathogens according to your laboratory's protocol including those organisms requiring a special request.

2. Antibiotic Susceptibility

- Antibiotic susceptibility testing must be performed on the reportable isolate(s) in specimen number 4. Report your interpretations of susceptibility to **ceftriaxone and penicillin** as resistant, susceptible, or intermediate.

Zone sizes or MICs may be reported, but they must be accompanied by an interpretation. **If your laboratory does not test these antibiotics, please indicate this.** Do not report results for antibiotics other than those listed above.

3. Specimen preparation / reconstitution

Please note that your laboratory may not have received all types of specimens. Specimens are sent based on individual laboratory protocol. If you have any questions regarding the types of specimens your laboratory should be receiving, please contact us.

Specimen reconstitution:

- Refer to the enclosed instruction sheet for processing the KWIK-STIK unit. These specimens are suitable for culture and for direct testing.

Antigen detection specimen (specimen A) – simulated throat swab:

- Allow the sample to reach room temperature before processing.
- Open and test for Group A *Streptococcus* using an antigen detection (or rapid Strep) test system.
- Please note that some kits use very small amounts of liquid for the extraction process and the test swab may absorb all extraction liquid. If this occurs, **add 3-5 drops sterile water** to the extraction tube and continue with test procedure.

Direct detection *Chlamydia* specimen – simulated cervix swab:

- Refer to enclosed instruction sheet. This specimen is suitable for any type of direct testing method but not for culture.

IMPORTANT: Survey samples, their progeny, unmodified derivatives or modifications thereof may not be transferred or incorporated into a product intended for Sale. Survey samples, their progeny, unmodified derivatives or modifications thereof, reagents, and disposable equipment used in proficiency testing, when disposed of, should be autoclaved or incinerated and disposed of as hazardous waste.

4. Reporting of results

Report all results as you would for a patient specimen. Your report will be graded according to the Bacteriology Questionnaire which we have on file for your laboratory, including any changes or amendments submitted **prior** to the mailing date of **this** test. Your laboratory will only be graded on the test specimens which you evaluate and will not receive credit for those specimens which you do not process. All answers submitted will be graded. Credit will be deducted for conflicting reports such as, 'No pathogens reported/found' along with a list of organisms identified. Conditional answers, such as '*Corynebacterium* species, possibly *xerosis*' will be considered reported: in this instance, as if *Corynebacterium xerosis* was reported.

Credit will be deducted if additional, nonpathogenic organisms are reported in the specimens where only the pathogen is to be identified.

Please utilize the drop-down list of organisms if at all possible. If you need to enter a result that is not on the list, please select "Other" and type in your result. All fields must be completed. Do not enter an organism more than one time in order to enter multiple methods of identification. This causes the program to grade EACH additional entry as an extra INCORRECT organism, possibly resulting in a loss of credit. Please choose ONE system/kit as your primary method of identification and enter each organism only once.

5. Submission of results

The deadline for submission of results is **OCTOBER 5, 2009. Results must be submitted electronically unless prior approval has been obtained from the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.**

Please refer to the enclosed instructions for electronic reporting. Specific questions regarding electronic reporting should be addressed to the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program at **(518) 485-5378** or by emailing **clepeptrs@health.state.ny.us**

If you have any questions regarding the Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program, please contact Geetha Nattanmai at **(518) 474-4177**.

Enclosure