

**New York State Dept of Health  
Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program  
Instruction Sheet – Throat Culture**

**April 30, 2012**

The Restricted - Throat Culture permit category is applicable to laboratories examining throat culture specimens for Group A *Streptococcus* only. 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 specimen in its original sealed pouch at 2°C to 8°C.**

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 **May 8, 2012** by calling (518) 474-4177.

### **Instructions**

#### **1. Specimen content and processing**

This shipment consists of five specimens, all of which are simulated throat cultures. Refer to the instruction sheet for processing the kwik-stik units.

**Note: After pinching the Kwik Stik tube to crush the ampule of liquid you may need to wait a few minutes for the liquid to flow into the pellet area. This can be facilitated by tapping the tube on a hard surface. If a sufficient quantity of liquid does not flow into the pellet area you can add a few drops of sterile broth/saline to sufficiently re-hydrate the pellet.**

#### **2. Reporting of results**

For each specimen, indicate whether or not Group A *Streptococcus* was identified. Also indicate the method of identification.

#### **3. Submission of results**

- The deadline for submission of results is **May 14, 2012**.
- Results must be submitted electronically unless prior approval has been obtained from the Clinical Laboratory Evaluation Program.
- **Electronic reporting: Do not submit paper results.** 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](mailto:clepeptrs@health.state.ny.us)

**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.**

If you have any questions regarding the Bacteriology Proficiency Testing Program, contact Dr. Wendy Archinal at **(518) 474-4177** or [bacti@wadworth.org](mailto:bacti@wadworth.org).