

ST. JAMES'S HOSPITAL LABMED DIRECTORATE			
Edition No.:	04	Microbiology Form	Doc No: LF-MICRO-0456
Authorised By	Br Brian O'Connell	Date 15.03.2023	Date of Issue: 15.03.2023

Critical Phone Limits for Microbiology St James' Hospital

Results that are abnormal and may be of relevance to immediate clinical management are communicated by the Microbiology Department.

Microbiology results communicated:

Microscopy results

Any organism seen in Gram films from a site in the body that is normally sterile must be communicated to the clinical team. This includes but is not limited to:

- Blood: Positive Blood Cultures, Gram stain / ePlex
- CSF
- Joint fluids
- Aspirates, including peritoneal aspirate/fluid, ascitic fluid, pericardial aspirate/fluid
- Abscess (assessment required)
- Tissue biopsies (including heart valves)
- Prosthetic (foreign) material inserted into the patient
 - CSF shunts,
 - Hip/knee prostheses
- Any parasite other than pinworm (*Enterobius vermicularis*)
- Filamentous fungi (e.g. *Aspergillus* spp.)
- CSF samples with a white cell count $>5 \times 10^6/l$.
- Acid Fast Bacilli seen in Auramine Phenol stains from any site*.

b) Culture results

a. Sites of interest

Any organism grown from a site in the body that is normally sterile. This includes but is not limited to:

- Blood
- Intravascular cannulae other than coag neg staphylococci and diphtheroids
- CSF
- joint fluids
- aspirates
- tissue biopsies (including heart valves)
- skin scrapes
- prosthetic (foreign) material inserted into the patient
 - CSF shunts
 - Hip/knee prostheses.

c) Enteric:

Any faecal pathogen cultured or otherwise detected in faeces from a hospitalised patient or from a patient in the community.

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d) Organisms of interest

The recovery of the following organisms should be communicated to the clinician on initial identification, even if present in mixed culture:

Group A beta-haemolytic streptococcus cultured from any site from a patient in the community or hospital.

Group B beta haemolytic streptococcus cultured from any site of a newborn

Gonococci, or likely gonococci, cultured from any site – there is no need to telephone GUIDE Clinic or Men's Health Clinic

Mycobacteria* cultured from any site. All positive auramine-phenol stains and all new information on TB specimens *i.e.* culture positivity, identification, susceptibilities.

Burkholderia cepacia when first isolated from cystic fibrosis patients.

Corynebacterium diphtheriae *isolated from any site.

Neisseria meningitidis *recovered from any site.

Filamentous fungi (e.g. *Aspergillus*, *Mucor* spp.) recovered from any site.

Bacillus anthracis*, **Yersinia pestis***, **Pseudomonas pseudomallei** recovered from any site.

This list is not comprehensive. Please discuss with a consultant if there is any concern about a particular result.

e) Multi-drug resistant organisms

The following **antibiotic-resistant organisms**, on first isolation from any individual patient:

- i. Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.
- ii. Multidrug resistant Gram-negative aerobic rods including:
 - Extended-spectrum B-lactamase producers
 - Multi-drug resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*
 - Multi-drug resistant *Acinetobacter species*
 - *Enterobacteriaceae* resistant to carbapenems (imipenem, meropenem)

f) Serology:

- Positive Cryptococcal antigen
- Positive Galactomannan

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- Positive Legionella urinary antigen (Respiratory Bench)
- Positive Pneumococcal urinary antigen (Respiratory Bench)

GeneXpert Results: Positive results from GeneXpert including TB, SARS-CoV-2, Influenzae A/B

Virology Results

Viral results deemed critical by the Consultant Microbiologist with special interest in Virology, are notified to the relevant user.

In particular, HIV reactive results specifically to General Practitioners other than those providing STI services.

Also to GP's:

- CMV IgM positive results in pregnancy
- Toxoplasma IgM positive results in pregnancy
- Positive Measles & Mumps results ie IgM Positive for either of these viruses
- Positive PCR results for Measles & Mumps
- VZV Positive results from swabs
- HSV positive eye swabs

All SARS-CoV-2 positive results are reviewed and released by Consultant Virologist and are notified via Surveillance Scientist: Hospital Infection Control, ID and relevant clinicians and released through EPR, Staff results are notified to Occupational Health

Notes:

- If the abnormal results cannot be communicated to the clinical team by phone, despite two attempts by Microbiology Staff to do so, these results will then be released into EPR and Healthlink. Further attempts to contact the clinical team may be undertaken but cannot be guaranteed.
- If GP or Out-patient results cannot be phoned, particularly outside of routine working hours, then appropriate further action will be determined post consultation with Microbiology consultant on-call.
- All other results of tests performed in the Microbiology Department will be released on EPR as soon as they have been authorised in the Microbiology Department.
- While the staff in the Microbiology Department will do their best to adhere to the above guidelines, it is the duty of all doctors to follow up, in a timely fashion, on the results of Microbiology investigations requested on patients under their care.

Dr Brian O'Connell: Consultant Microbiologist:

Dr Brendan Crowley: Consultant in Microbiology & Clinical Virology