

National Centre for Streptococcus Centre National Pour Le Streptocoque

Provincial Laboratory for Public Health
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For information:
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TURN - AROUND TIMES:

The National Centre for Streptococcus provides laboratory services that support surveillance, outbreak and research initiatives. The following turn around times reflect routine testing only. Routine isolates are processed in the order in which they are received, and generally take priority over research collections. Samples that belong to research projects are batched, and therefore reporting will not meet the same guidelines as those established for routine testing.

Requests for laboratory services to support **outbreak investigation** will be given priority testing status assuming that the NCS is notified in advance of receiving the isolates. **The submitter must send a brief description of the outbreak event, including index case information and the follow up actions that were taken.** If isolates are received without prior notification, the submitter will be contacted immediately to obtain the necessary information. The turn around time may vary with the number of isolates received however preliminary results should be available within 5 days of receipt. An 'EI' number will be assigned by the NCS to each outbreak investigation to facilitate tracking.

PLEASE NOTE: Services are provided for isolates associated with **INVASIVE DISEASE**. Characterization of non-invasive isolates may be provided to support outbreak investigation or cases of unusual or serious disease. Please contact the laboratory prior to submitting non-invasive isolates.

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Testing Frequency</u>	<u>Average Turn Around Time</u>
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Serotyping:

<i>S. pneumoniae</i>	Tested Mon - Fri	14 - 21 days
Group A & B strept	Tested Mon - Fri	10 - 14 days*

*Strains which fail to produce detectable antigens when initially tested may require up to six weeks of further investigation before being reported as nontypable

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Organism Identification:

The expected turn-around time is difficult to establish for this specialized testing which varies considerably with the type of organism under investigation. Incubation of biochemical tests can require up to 2 weeks for some non-reactive organisms, and often repeat testing may be required. A minimum of one week may be expected, with an **average time of 2 to 3 weeks** for complete identification. If molecular testing (16S rRNA sequencing) is required, a further 2-3 weeks may be required. Since the speciation of an organism is requested by submitting agencies after they have issued a preliminary report and antibiotic susceptibility results to the clinician, this time frame should not impact patient care.

Antibiotic Susceptibility Testing:

Monitoring of antibiotic susceptibility trends is performed as part of the epidemiological surveillance consistent with the functions of this Centre. Results are not for clinical application and are rarely requested by the submitter. Testing is batched and performed as the workload allows. Since these results are not for external use, and rarely reported, turn around times for susceptibility testing of these strains are not monitored. Invasive pneumococcal isolates that are submitted for serotyping are routinely tested by the CLSI broth microdilution reference method to determine the MIC for penicillin, cefotaxime, ceftriaxone, chloramphenicol, clindamycin, erythromycin, levofloxacin, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole and vancomycin.

Confirmation of an unusual antibiotic resistance is occasionally requested; in this case, a result should be available within 3-5 days of receipt.