

Test: *Leptospira* culture

Specimen receiving: Specimens for *Leptospira* culture will be accepted from Monday thru Friday by 3:30 p.m., except on holidays.

Turn around Time: 6 weeks

Specimen requirements: Blood, urine or CSF must be inoculated by the submitting lab in EMJH media (pre-requested from State Labs). If using anticoagulant tubes (i.e. vacutainer), use heparin or EDTA, not citrated tubes

Specimen collection: Blood and CSF should be collected within the first 10 days of illness. After the first week of illness, urine may be a better source of *Leptospira*. However, it is recommended that blood be cultured in all cases of suspected leptospirosis regardless of the date of onset.

Specimen inoculation: Submitting lab must inoculate EMJH media prior to submission. (Please contact the Bacteriology-Parasitology Section at 453-6706 for EMJH media)

- **BLOOD:** Inoculate 1-2 drops of blood to each of 4 tubes of EMJH.
- **CSF:** Inoculate 1-2 drops of CSF to each of 4 tubes of EMJH.
- **URINE:** Inoculate 1-2 drops of undiluted, 1:10 dilution into duplicate tubes of EMJH (4 total tubes per urine sample). Use *Leptospira* buffered saline (LBS), available from the SLD, as the diluent.

DO NOT REFRIGERATE INOCULATED TUBES. EMJH TUBES ARE TO BE AT ROOM TEMPERATURE PRIOR TO INCULATION.

Specimen transport: Specimens should be transported at ambient temperature to the laboratory. They should be securely sealed with parafilm to prevent leakage, and wrapped in aluminum foil to create a darkened environment. Tubes should be upright during transport.

Requisition form:

- All specimens must be submitted with a legible 81.3 request form
- Requisition form must have patient name or other unique identifier
- Name of test requested
- Date of collection
- Submitter name and address
- Inclusion of patient symptomology would be desirable.

Normal value: No *Leptospira* detected.

Result notification: Final laboratory reports will be forwarded to both the submitter and the Disease Investigation Branch (DIB). A positive finding will be called in to the submitting Laboratory or a preliminary report will be faxed. The DIB will be notified.

Comments: EMJH and *Leptospira* Buffered Saline (LBS) can be pre-requested from SLD by a submitting laboratory.

All positive cultures will be forwarded to CDC for confirmation and to determine serovar.

Unacceptable conditions:

- Specimens not inoculated in EMJH media
- Leaking specimens
- Contaminated or overgrown specimens
- Illegible or incompletely-filled requisition forms
- Specimens have been refrigerated.
- Specimen not labeled properly
- Improperly collected specimens

Test location: State of Hawaii Dept. of Health Laboratories
Medical Microbiology Branch
Bacteriology-Parasitology Section
2725 Waimano Home Road, 2nd. Floor
Pearl City, HI 96782

Contact information: Phone: (808) 453-6706
Fax: (808) 453-6716

Approved:



A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.

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