

**Test: *Leptospira* culture**

**Specimen receiving:** Specimens for *Leptospira* culture will be accepted from Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 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 DOH Lab). 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 Hawaii District Laboratory at 974-4245 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 saline as the diluent.

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

**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.

**Normal value:** No *Leptospira* detected.

**Result notification:** Final laboratory reports will be forwarded to the submitter. A positive finding will also be called to the submitting laboratory.

**Comments:** EMJH can be pre-requested from Hawaii District Laboratory 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  
Hawaii District Laboratory  
191 Kuawa Street  
Hilo, HI 96720

**Contact information:** Phone: (808) 974-4245  
Fax: (808) 974-4243

**Approved:**

  
A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.

Date: 1/30/2018