

Kauai District Health Laboratory

Specimen Requirements for *Leptospira* Culture in Clinical Samples

- Test:** *Leptospira* culture
- Specimen receiving:** Specimens for *Leptospira* culture will be accepted Monday through Friday From 7:45 am – 4:00 pm. KDHL is closed on weekends and holidays.
- Turn around time:** 6 – 7 weeks
- Specimen requirements:** Blood, urine or CSF must be inoculated by the submitting lab in EMJH media (pre-requested from KDHL). 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 KDHL at 241-3353 for EMJH media)
- BLOOD: Inoculate one, two and three drops of blood into three tubes of EMJH.
 - CSF: Inoculate 0.5 mL of CSF to one tube of EMJH.
 - URINE: Immediately after collection, centrifuge 10 - 12 mL of urine @ 1500 rpm for 5 minutes. Decant supernatant and inoculate one, two, and three drops of the resuspended sediment into three tubes of EMJH.
- DO NOT REFRIGERATE INOCULATED TUBES.
STORE EMJH TUBES AT ROOM TEMPERATURE AND IN THE DARK.**
- 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 and include:
- Patient name and another unique identifier
 - Name of test requested
 - Date of collection AND date of onset
 - Submitter name and address
 - Inclusion of patient symptomology would be desirable.

Normal value: Negative for *Leptospira* at 6 weeks.

Result notification: Final laboratory reports will be forwarded to the submitter. A positive finding will be called in to the submitting laboratory. The report will be forwarded to both the submitting laboratory and the KDHO Disease Investigation Unit.

Comments: EMJH media can be pre-requested from KDHL by a submitting laboratory.
All positive cultures will be forwarded to State Laboratories on Oahu for confirmation and to determine serovar.

Unacceptable conditions: Criteria for sample rejection include the following:

- Specimens are not inoculated in EMJH media
- Leaking specimens
- Contaminated or overgrown specimens
- Illegible or incomplete requisition forms
- Specimens have been refrigerated
- Specimens not labeled properly
- Improperly collected specimens

Test location: Kauai District Health Laboratory
3040 Umi. St.
Lihue, HI 96766

Contact information: Phone: (808) 241-3353
Fax: (808) 241-3480

Approved:


A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.

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