

TEST:	Leptospira culture
Synonym:	Leptospira culture isolation and identification
Laboratory/Phone:	443-681-3938/3931
Turnaround Time:	Usually within 4 -6 weeks from receipt in the lab.
Specimen Required:	Urine, heparinized whole blood, CSF depending on stage of illness
Specimen identification:	Label container with patient's last name, first name, DOB, specimen type, date and time of collection.
Specimen Volume (Optimum):	0.1ml urine; 5 ml heparinized whole blood; 1 ml CSF. Collection in Leptospira transport media
Specimen Volume (Minimum):	Half of the optimum amount
Collect:	Blood (Heparin),CSF and Urine in first week of Leptospira infection. Submit urine, after 7 days of illness. Specimen should be submitted in transport media as per instruction provided. Transport media can be requested from DHMH lab by calling 443-681-3777
Form:	Infectious Agents: Culture/Detection Form #4676 Indicate specimen type using the "Specimen Code" on form.
Packaging and Shipping:	Submit specimen according to Biological Substance, Category B shipping guidelines (diagnostic specimen).
Transport Conditions:	Transport specimen at room temperature and protect from exposure to light. Do not refrigerate or freeze specimen.
Specimen Rejection Criteria:	Specimen not collected in transport media, non-sterile or leaking container, cold or frozen specimen. Urine held for more than 2 hours from collection or in preservative.
Availability:	Monday through Friday.
Results and Interpretation:	Presence of spirochete by darkfield microscopy may indicate positive results. Further confirmation test for Identification of Leptospira is required.
Reference Range:	Culture negative for Leptospira species.
Additional Information:	http://www.cdc.gov/leptospirosis/
Purpose of Test:	Isolation and identification of Leptospira species.
Method:	Culture, darkfield microscopy
Interfering Substances/Limitations:	
Testing Site:	DHMH Laboratories Administration, Central Laboratory 1770 Ashland Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21205
Comment:	Leptospira serology is currently sent to CDC for evaluation