



Department of Health and Human Services
 Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory
 47 Independence Drive
 # 12 State House Station
 Augusta, Maine 04333-0012
 Tel: (207) 287-2727; Fax: (207) 287-6832
 TTY: 1-800-606-0215

Detection of Neisseria meningitidis in CSF by Real Time RT PCR
Laboratory Submission Information Sheet

Reporting of suspect case to Maine CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes: Meningitis due to Neisseria meningitidis is a Notifiable Condition. If you have not already done so, please report suspect or confirmed cases to the Maine CDC via the disease reporting line: 1-800-821-5821 (24hrs/day 7 days/week.)
Required To Submit Laboratory Specimen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No, this is a PCR based screen. In the event a clinical lab isolates Neisseria meningitidis, it must send an isolate to HETL for grouping. See Laboratory Submission Information Sheet for N. meningitidis clinical isolates.
Required Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on requisition must include: test requested, patient name, DOB, date of collection, specimen source or type, submitter name and contact information. • Important: all specimens must be labeled with patient name, DOB or other unique identifier, and be accompanied by a HETL requisition.
Specimen Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) (0.5ml minimum, 1ml preferred). DO NOT DILUTE CSF: Do not use viral or other transport media. Collect specimen in a sterile leak proof container. • Samples should be kept at 2-8°C for short term storage and may be frozen (-70°C) for long term storage.
Collection Instructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If they are expected to arrive within 48 hours CSF should be stored in refrigerator until shipping. Use frozen cold packs to transport samples to the lab. • If they are expected to arrive over 48 hours CSF should be stored and shipped frozen. • Avoid contamination of CSF with blood.
Turn Around Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCR results are generally available within 1 - 3 business days of specimen receipt at HETL
Unacceptable Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimens received without a form and clinical details or with insufficient material to analyze. • CSF diluted in Viral Transport Media (VTM) or other transport media • Specimen not refrigerated or not frozen • Incorrect specimen type.
Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neisseria meningitidis DNA Detected or Not Detected • Results will only be reported to the submitter listed on the requisition
Laboratory Testing Fee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$110
Applicable CPT Codes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 87798
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteriology at 207-287-1704 • Virology, Respiratory, Arbovirus, Serology, and STI at 207-287-1722 • Molecular Biology, Sequencing, and Foodborne at 207-287-5769 • Mycobacterium and Rabies at 207-287-1706