

ISSUE: M007

DEPARTMENT OF MICROBIOLOGY  
**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO USERS**  
**Turnaround Times (TATs) for Microbiology Investigations**

Dear User,

In order to comply with national quality guidance and as part of our on-going quality improvements, it is necessary to inform all of our users of our current TATs for Microbiology investigations.

We have recently reviewed and re-published our expected TATs for tests performed in Microbiology. These are available on our website and intranet pages:

<http://www.pathology.leedsth.nhs.uk/testandtubes>

We have also included in this bulletin a list of the published TATs as of November 2017. Please be advised that TATs are subject to change and may change without prior notice. New tests will be added to the list as they become available.

To ensure compliance with our stated TATs, we regularly monitor our performance against them and investigate any breaches accordingly. Users will be notified if there is a significant delay in TATs that may adversely affect the level of service provided.

**By submitting samples to our laboratory service, users agree to the published TATs at the time of submission.**

Please notify the department if you do not agree with the published TATs or wish to discuss them in more detail. We encourage our users to review the TATs accordingly and notify us immediately if you feel we are not meeting the agreed TATs.

**Contact:**

Microbiology Department  
Old Medical School  
Leeds General Infirmary  
Thoresby Place  
Leeds  
LS1 3EX

Tel: 0113 392 3499

Fax: 0113-3928782

Kind regards

Ian Cocking

Pathology Service Manager - Microbiology, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust

**Microbiology Turnaround Times - November 2017**

All turnaround times (TATs) are calculated for 95% of samples from time of receipt in the laboratory to when the report is printed or sent electronically.

<b>Bacteriology Investigations</b>	<b>Expected TAT</b>	<b>Qualifying Information</b>
Alcohol and acid fast bacilli (AAFB) microscopy	24 hours	For samples received Monday to Friday 12pm
	3 days	For samples received from Friday 12pm until Monday am
Alcohol and acid fast bacilli (AAFB) culture	60 days	Turnaround time may be increased if prolonged culture is clinically indicated.
<i>Bordetella pertussis</i> culture	8 days	Confirmation of positive culture is a referred test. Final report will be longer than stated turnaround time.
Blood culture	5 days.	For final negative culture report. An interim report will be issued at 48 hours (36 hours for Paediatric bottles).  Positive results may be available sooner but TAT is dependent on bacterial load in blood stream.  Turnaround time may be increased if prolonged incubation is clinically indicated
<i>Clostridium difficile</i> toxin (CDT) detection - Glutamate Dehydrogenase (GDH) EIA	24 hours	Preliminary detection of Glutamate Dehydrogenase (GDH) by EIA. Confirmation of toxin production is longer turnaround time.
toxin (CDT) detection	5	Preliminary detection of Glutamate Dehydrogenase (GDH) by EIA will be reported within 24 hours. Confirmation of toxin production is longer turnaround time.
CF sputum culture	7	
CSF microscopy	Within 24 hours	CSF microscopy will be reported within 1 hour of receipt of sample if the laboratory has been notified of its arrival
CSF culture (from lumbar puncture)	5	
CSF culture (neurology patients)	7	An interim report will be available after 5 days
Faeces Pathogen Screen -	5	TAT is for any combination of these

including faeces culture, Combined <i>Cryptosporidium</i> and <i>Giardia</i> EIA and Rotavirus EIA		tests or for a single investigation
Faecal Calprotectin EIA	14	
Fluid culture	8	
Fluid Microscopy including Crystal Microscopy	Within 24 hours	Samples requested as urgent will be available sooner if the laboratory is notified the sample is been sent.
GUM N gonorrhoea culture	7	
High Vaginal Swab (HVS)	6	
Helicobacter pylori stool antigen EIA	5	
MRSA culture (Screening)	3	
Ophthalmic culture	10	
Ova, cysts & parasites	5	
Pregnancy Test	≤1	
Pus Sample	10	TAT may be extended on requests where extended incubation for fungal culture is indicated
Routine Bacteriology Swabs M,C&S	6	
Sputum culture	5	
Tip Culture	4	
Tissues culture	10	TAT may be extended on requests where extended incubation for fungal culture is indicated
Urine Micro Auto/culture	3	

<b>Mycology Investigations</b>	<b>Expected TAT (days)</b>	<b>Qualifying Information</b>
Aspergillus antibody	10	
Aspergillus (galactomannan) antigen	3	
Avian precipitins	10	
Blastomyces precipitins	6	
Budgerigar precipitins	10	
Coccidioides antibodies	14	
Cryptococcal antigen	1	
Farmer's lung antibodies	10	
Histoplasma antibodies	14	
Moulds culture and identification	14	
Mycology Culture	24	Interim microscopy report will be



		available before final culture result
Mycology Microscopy	7	Interim microscopy report will be available before final culture result
Paracoccidioides antibodies	6	
Itraconazole levels	8	
Posaconazole levels	8	
Voriconazole levels	8	
Yeasts identification and sensitivities	8	

<b>Molecular Investigations</b>	<b>Expected TAT (days)</b>	<b>Qualifying Information</b>
Adenovirus PCR	3	
Bacterial 16s PCR	10	
BK Virus PCR	8	
Bordatella pertussis PCR	4	
Cerebrospinal Fluid (Viral PCR)	3	
C.difficile Ribotyping service	14	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) PCR	3	Tissue samples may take 4 days as repeat freeze-thaw cycles are required for processing
Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) PCR	3	Tissue samples may take 4 days as repeat freeze-thaw cycles are required for processing
Enterovirus PCR	3	
Faecal Virology	3	
Genital Viruses	5	
Hepatitis B PCR	7	
Hepatitis B Genotypic Resistance PCR	18	
Hepatitis C PCR	7	
Hepatitis C genotyping	18	
Herpes simplex virus (HSV) PCR (non genital)	3	
HHV6 PCR	3	
HIV Genotypic Resistance High Viral Load	18	
HIV Genotypic Resistance Low Viral Load	18	
HIV PCR	7	
JC virus	8	
Measles PCR	3	
Meningococcal and	3	



Pneumococcal PCR		
Mycobacterium PCR	14	
Pneumocystis PCR	2	
TB mycobacteria resistance testing	14	
Neurological PCR screen	3	
Parvovirus B19 DNA	3	
Respiratory Virus PCR	1-2 days	
Varicella zoster virus (VZV) PCR	3	

Serology Investigations	Expected TAT (days)	Qualifying Information
Chlamydia trachomatis IgG	9	
Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)	4	
Chlamydia, Gonorrhoea and Trichomonas vaginalis Nucleic acid amplification test (NAAT)	4	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) Avidity	7	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) IgG	4	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV) IgM	4	
EBV EBNA 5	5	
EBV IgG	5	
EBV IgM	5	
Hepatitis A total antibody	7	
Hepatitis B core IgG	4	TAT may be increased by confirmatory testing
Hepatitis B core IgM	5	If tests are requested as singleton investigations. TAT may be longer if requested within a panel of other investigations
Hepatitis B surface antigen	4	TAT may be increased by confirmatory testing
Hepatitis Be antibody/antigen	5	If tests are requested as singleton investigations. TAT may be longer if requested within a panel of other investigations
Hepatitis B surface antibody	5	If tests are requested as singleton investigations. TAT may be longer if requested within a panel of other investigations
Hepatitis C antibody	4	TAT may be increased by

		confirmatory testing
Hepatitis D total antibody	10	
Hepatitis E IgG/IgM	10	
Hepatitis A IgM	4	
HIV antibody	4	
Herpes Simplex virus (HSV) IgG	5	
Human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV) Antibodies	6	
Legionella Antigen (Urine)	2	
Measles IgG	5	
Measles IgM	7	
Mumps IgG	7	
Mumps IgM	7	
Mycoplasma IgM	7	TAT may be increased by confirmatory testing
Parvovirus IgG	5	
Parvovirus IgM	5	
Respiratory Viral Compliment fixation test (CFT)	10	
Rubella IgG	7	
Rubella IgM	7	
Syphilis serology	5	TAT may be increased by confirmatory testing
TB QuantiFERON	6	
Toxoplasma IgG	7	
Varicella zoster virus (VZV) IgG	5	

Turnaround times for investigations performed by referral laboratories are available on request and for review if required and will be published on the website.