

Cerebrospinal Fluid (CSF) Culture

Orderable

CSFC

Turnaround Time

From time of receipt in the testing laboratory:

- **STAT (Gram Stain Only):** 1 hour
- **Lumbar Puncture (LP):** 4 days
- **Shunts or Drains:** 5 days

Specimen Requirements

Specimen Types:

- Lumbar Puncture
- Drainage*
- Ventriculoperitoneal (VP) Shunt*
- Tip*

Containers:



Lumbar Puncture Tube



Sterile Container*

Minimum Testing Volume: 1 mL of CSF fluid or 2-3 cm of medical device if collecting a tip specimen

Specimen Handling

Collection Instructions:

- Tubes must be labelled in the order they are collected
- If multiple CSF tubes are collected, the first tube must not be used for the CSF culture

Rejection Criteria: Underfilled

Method of Analysis

Microscopy, Culture



Testing Location

Microbiology

Testing Schedule

Daily

Storage and Transportation

- Transport specimens to the laboratory immediately after collection
- Keep samples at room temperature and never refrigerate

Referred in Specimens Only

- Keep samples at room temperature and never refrigerate
- Specimens must be received in the Microbiology Laboratory within 24 hours of collection

Additional Comments or Limitations

- Shunt associated infection should be assessed using results from more than one culture
- For other tests, refer to the appropriate Laboratory Test Information Guide pages:
 - Fungal Culture: FUNG
 - Mycobacterium Culture: AFBC
 - Viral PCR: HSVPCR, VZVPCR, QCMV, QEBV