







 One Dorset Pathology		Title: A - Z of Microbiology tests (E-H)	
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Test	Specimen	Container	Required volume	Laboratory	Turnaround time	Additional information
Ear swab	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	96 hrs. Isolation and identification of fungi may extend turn around time	
Ebola virus	See Viral Haemorrhagic Fever					
EBV PCR	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top)	1-5 ml	Reference laboratory	7 days	
EBV serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	
Endotracheal aspirate (ETA)	Respiratory secretions	Sterile Universal		RBH	24-48hrs	
Enterovirus PCR	CSF	See entry under Cerebrospinal Fluid				
	Faeces	Sterile Universal	1-2g faeces	Reference laboratory	5 days	
	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top tube)	1-5 ml			
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (E.coli) O157 serology (retrospective diagnosis only)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10ml	Reference laboratory	7-14 days	See also Faeces MC&S
Eye swab for MC&S	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	96 hrs for standard culture 10 days if extended incubation for fungi or investigation for <i>Acanthamoeba</i> sp. is required	Send a separate Chlamydia swab if this is suspected.
Eye swab for virological investigations (PCR)	Swab	Swab in Viral Transport Medium	N/A	Poole Virology	24-48hrs	
Faecal parasitology/ ova, cysts and parasites (OCP)	Faeces	Universal 30 ml faecal pot	Cherry sized portion of faeces, or equivalent volume of fluid	RBH	24-48 hrs	3 specimens on 3 consecutive days – give clinical details Please indicate any recent foreign travel.
Faeces for Virology	Faeces	Universal	Cherry-	(Adenovirus/	24-48 hrs	

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(Adenovirus/ Rotavirus/ Norovirus)		30ml faecal pot	sized portion of faeces, or equivalent volume of fluid	Rotavirus - Poole Bacteriology) (Norovirus – RBH)		
Faeces MC&S [includes <i>Salmonella</i> spp (inc typhoid, paratyphoid), <i>Shigella</i> spp, <i>E.coli</i> 0157, <i>Campylobacter</i> spp. Culture for <i>Yersinia</i> spp, <i>Vibrio</i> spp will be performed only if relevant clinical details or travel history provided.	Faeces	Universal 30ml faecal pot	Cherry sized portion of faeces, or equivalent volume of fluid	RBH	4 days	Samples >48 hrs old not desirable. Store in fridge overnight if required.
Fasciola & other intestinal fluke serology (Clonorchis/ Paragonimus)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10ml	Reference laboratory	7-14 days	All requests must be discussed with the consultant medical microbiologist
Filarial serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10ml	Reference laboratory	7-14 days	All requests must be discussed with the Consultant Medical Microbiologist
Fluids, tissues, biopsies for microscopy and culture [includes aspirates, biopsies, tissue samples/ curettage, heart valves]	Fluid/ tissue [If biopsy is small add 0.5ml of Ringers or sterile saline to prevent it from drying out. Ensure there is NO preservative or formalin	Sterile Universal	Dependant on specimen type	RBH	8 days	Please specify if culture for fungi, mycobacteria or other fastidious organisms is required.
Genital swab for MC&S	Genital	Swab in Amies medium with charcoal	N/A	RBH	96 hrs	Samples >48 hrs old are not desirable but will be processed. Store in fridge overnight if required.
Gentamicin levels	See under Antibiotic Assays					
Helicobacter faecal antigen	Faeces	Universal 30ml faecal pot	With the spatula provided transfer a cherry-sized portion of faeces or equivalent volume of fluid	Poole Virology	48 hrs	
Hepatitis A IgG	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	This is for testing for immunity.

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		top tube)				Please state on form if you suspect acute infection.
Acute Hepatitis serology (Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis C IgG +/- Hepatitis A IgM)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	Hepatitis A IgM will only be performed if ALT >300 or recent foreign travel
Hepatitis (past history) serology (Hepatitis B core antibody, Hepatitis A total antibody, Hepatitis C IgG)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	
<u>Hepatitis B serology- individual tests</u> Hepatitis B core Ab (HBcAb) Hepatitis B surface Antigen (HBsAg) Hepatitis B surface Ab (Anti-HBs) Hepatitis B e Ab (HBeAb) Hepatitis B e Antigen (HBeAg)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	-Send a core antibody for past or ongoing Hep B infection. -Send a surface antibody for post-immunisation check. -Send a surface antigen screen if current/ ongoing infection is suspected.
Hepatitis B core IgM	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference laboratory	10-14 days	Only sent if other Hep B serology indicates acute infection
Hepatitis B DNA/ viral load	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top tube)	5 ml	Reference laboratory		
Hepatitis C serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	
Hepatitis C RNA/ viral load	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top tube) for viral load	5 ml	RBH	5 days	This is for monitoring viral response to antiviral therapy or confirmation of serologically positive patients
Hepatitis C genotype	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top tube)	5 ml	Reference	7-14 days	
Hepatitis D serology (IgM/ IgG) & PCR	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	7-14 days	
Hepatitis E serology (IgM/ IgG)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	7-14 days	

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Herpes simplex virus PCR (HSV1 & HSV2)	Swabs (genital/ skin/ eye/ lesion)	Swab in Viral Transport Medium	N/A	Poole Virology	24-48 hrs	
Herpes simplex virus (HSV 1/2) serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	7-14 days	Only of use for establishing past infection- Not useful for acute diagnosis
HHV6 & HHV7 Serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	7-14 days	
HHV6 & HHV7 PCR	Blood	EDTA (purple top)	1-5ml	Reference	7-14 days	
Histoplasma serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	7-14 days	All requests must be discussed with the Consultant Medical Microbiologist
HIV1/2 antigen/ antibody	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	
HIV Viral load	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top)	5 ml	RBH	5 days	This is for monitoring viral load trends in known retroviral positive patients. This is not a diagnostic test.
HTLV 1&2 serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Poole Virology	24 hrs	
HVS (High Vaginal Swab) for MC&S	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	96 hrs	