

 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	4 days 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	8 days	
EBV serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	24 hrs	
Endotracheal aspirate (ETA)	Respiratory secretions	Sterile Universal		RBH	4 days	
Eye swab for MC&S	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	4 days 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 (HSV/VZV/Adeno) investigations (PCR)	Swab	Swab in Viral Transport Medium	N/A	Bristol	5 days	
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 (Adenovirus/ Rotavirus/ Norovirus)	Faeces	Universal 30ml faecal pot	Cherry-sized portion of faeces, or equivalent volume of fluid	RBH	24-48 hrs	
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	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.

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details or travel history provided.						
Fasciola & other intestinal fluke serology (Clonorchis/ Paragonimus)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10ml	Reference laboratory	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	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	4 days	Samples >48 hrs old are not desirable but will be processed. Store in fridge overnight if required.
Helicobacter faecal antigen	Faeces	Universal 30ml faecal pot	With the spatula provided transfer a cherry-sized portion of faeces or equivalent volume of fluid	RBH	48 hrs	
Hepatitis A Total (anti-HAV IgM and IgG)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	24 hrs	This is used to determine an existing or past HAV infection. Please state on clinical details if you suspect acute infection.
Acute Hepatitis serology (Hepatitis B surface antigen, Anti-Hepatitis C, +/- Hepatitis A IgM)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	24 hrs	Hepatitis A IgM will only be performed if ALT >100 or other clinical details such as recent foreign travel
Hepatitis (past history) serology (Hepatitis B core antibody, Hepatitis A total antibody, anti-Hepatitis C)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	24 hrs	

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<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	RBH	24 hrs	? Hepatitis B: send a request for HBsAg and HBcAb. If positive results, additional markers to assess HBV status will be added as reflex test. 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	14 days	Only if other Hep B serology marker indicates acute infection
Hepatitis B DNA/ viral load	Blood	EDTA blood (purple top tube)	5 ml	Reference laboratory	8 days	To monitor the progression of chronic Hepatitis B, assess the risk of reactivation before immunosuppressant drugs, and monitor the effectiveness of antiviral therapy
Hepatitis C serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	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 days	
Hepatitis D serology (IgM/ IgG) & PCR	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	16 days	Requested only in patients who are HBsAg positive
Hepatitis E serology (IgM/ IgG)	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference	16 days	
Herpes simplex virus PCR (HSV1 & HSV2)	Swabs (genital/ skin/ lesion)	Swab in Viral Transport Medium	N/A	UHS	5 days	
HIV1/2 antigen/ antibody	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	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.

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HTLV 1&2 serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	24 hrs	
HVS (High Vaginal Swab) for MC&S	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	4 days	