

 One Dorset Pathology		Title: A - Z of Microbiology tests (M-P)	
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Test	Specimen	Container	Required volume	Laboratory	Turnaround time	Additional information
Malaria detection	Blood	EDTA (purple top tube)	5 ml	RBH Haematology		Urgent test – performed by Haematology
Acute measles serology (IgM)	Blood (serum)	Clotted Blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference laboratory	7 days	For acute infection
Measles PCR	Buccal swab	Swab in Viral Transport Medium	N/A	Reference laboratory	7 days	All requests MUST be discussed with Consultant Medical Microbiologist
Measles IgG	Blood (serum)	Clotted Blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	24hrs	For evidence of past infection or immunity
Meningococcal PCR	Blood	EDTA (purple top tube)	5 ml	Reference laboratory	7 days	All requests MUST be discussed with Consultant Medical Microbiologist
	CSF	See entry under Cerebrospinal Fluid				
Mouth swab	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	4 days	
MRSA screen	Routine screening	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	48 hrs	Samples >48 hrs old are not desirable but will be processed. Store in fridge overnight if required.
	Urgent PCR	GeneXpert swab available from the laboratory	N/A	RBH	4 hours	Will only be routinely performed from HDU & ITU and designated wards if discussed with Infection Control and/or a Consultant Microbiologist prior to taking the sample Nasal preparations, excessive blood or mucus may affect performance of this assay
Acute mumps serology IgM For clinical cases of mumps	Blood (serum)	Clotted Blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference laboratory	14 days	Please state date of onset and contact history.
Mumps IgG	Blood (serum)	Clotted Blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	Reference laboratory	14 days	For evidence of past infection or immunity
Mycobacteria/ AFB (Tuberculosis & Atypical/ non-tuberculous): Microscopy (Ziehl-Nielsen/ auramine), Isolation Please state clearly on request form that Mycobacterial/ TB/ AFB investigation required.	Sputum	Sterile Universal (send 3 sputa for suspected pulmonary TB)		UHS	Up to 8 weeks	All suspected cases should be discussed with TB team
	BAL/ gastric aspirates CSF/ fluids/ tissue	Sterile Universal				

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	Urine	Sterile universal (send <u>early morning urine on 3 consecutive days</u>)				
	Blood/Bone marrow	Lithium Heparin bottles	4 x 5 ml	Reference laboratory	Up to 8 weeks	
Mycobacterium tuberculosis PCR (fast-track)/ Rifampicin probes (MDR suspected)	Respiratory specimens or deep / sterile specimens	Sterile universal		UHS	7 days	
T-SPOT TB	Blood	2 x Lithium heparin		Reference laboratory	5 days	Samples to be in lab by 15:30 Mon-Fri. Check with laboratory for service availability around bank holidays.
Mycology MC&S (Systemic mycoses)	Tissue, fluids, systemic	Sterile Universal	N/A	RBH	Microscopy 24 hrs – culture up to 6 weeks	Please state clinical history and that fungal culture is required.
Mycology (Dermatophytes) Skin, nail & hair	Skin, nail and hair	Sterile Universal or Dermapak	N/A	RBH	Microscopy: 5 days Culture: Up to 6 weeks	
Nasal swab	Swab	Swab in Amies transport medium with charcoal.	N/A	RBH	4 days	Please clearly state if nasal swab is for MC&S or MRSA or MSSA
Norovirus PCR	Faeces	Sterile universal 30ml faecal pot	With the spatula provided transfer a cherry-sized portion of faeces, or equivalent volume of fluid	RBH	2-4 hours	Arranged through Infection Control Team
Pacemaker tips/ leads & other cardiac prostheses	Device	Sterile Universal	N/A	RBH	48hrs	Should NOT be sent routinely. Only send where device infection is suspected.
Parvovirus serology	Blood (serum)	Clotted Blood (red top tube)	5-10 ml	RBH	8 days	Please state date of onset and if patient is pregnant.
Parvovirus PCR	Blood (serum)/ amniotic fluid	Discuss request with Consultant Medical Microbiologist				
Pneumococcal urinary antigen This test is only indicated in severe community-acquired pneumonia (CAP). Severe CAP has a CURB-65 score of 3 or more.	Urine	Sterile Universal	10-20 ml		Same day	Tests from AMU wards 2 & 3, ITU, HDU and wards 10 & 11 will be performed if requested. Requests from other wards/ departments require prior discussion with a Consultant Medical Microbiologist.

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<i>Pneumocystis jiroveci</i> (PCP) immunofluorescence	Lower respiratory secretions (induced sputum/ BAL)	Sterile Universal		Reference laboratory	7 days	All requests MUST be discussed with Consultant Medical Microbiologist
Polyomaviruses (BK/ JC virus) PCR	BK – Urine or EDTA JC - CSF, urine, serum, plasma (150 µL), whole blood (300 µL), tissue	As appropriate		Reference laboratory	7-14 days	