



# Legionella Culture

*Environmental water*

## Test Description

A specimen is submitted, concentrated, and cultured for Legionella to support an epidemiologic investigation. The culture methodology detects Legionella pneumophila and some additional species of Legionella. However, some non-L. pneumophila species of Legionella are inhibited by the selective agents in the culture medium. Clients should consult with the laboratory director prior to collecting specimens if it is desirable to isolate non-L. pneumophila species of Legionella. Cultures are incubated for 7 days. Testing is generally completed within 10 days from specimen collection but occasionally may take longer.

## Acceptable Specimens: collection guide and transport conditions

- **Ice**
  - Temperature: If specimen will reach the lab within 72 hours of collection, it can be transported at ambient temperature (20-25 °C). If not, specimen should be delivered within a cooler with adequate ice packs to keep the specimen frozen
  - Maximum Submission Delay: 72 hours-30 days (if frozen)
  - Container: Two sterile 1-liter Nalgene wide mouth specimen jars with screw cap 3/4 full of ice
- **Swab**
  - Temperature: If specimen will reach the lab within 72 hours of collection, it can be transported at ambient temperature (20-25 °C). If not, specimen should be delivered within a cooler with adequate ice packs to keep the specimen cool
  - Maximum Submission Delay: 72 hours



## ALLEGHENY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

3901 Penn Ave, Building 8  
Pittsburgh, PA 15224  
412.578.8070

- Container: Swab in 15 mL BD Falcon centrifuge tube containing 3 mL of sterile-deionized water with 0.05 milli normal sodium thiosulfate
- **Potable water**
  - Temperature: If specimen will reach the lab within 72 hours of collection, it can be transported at ambient temperature (20-25 °C). If not, specimen should be delivered within a cooler with adequate ice packs to keep the specimen cool
  - Maximum Submission Delay: 72 hours
  - Container: Sterile 1-liter Nalgene wide mouth specimen jars with screw cap, Sterile 1 liter straight-sided wide mouth jar with screw cap, with 0.1 N sodium thiosulfate
- **Hot water tank**
  - Temperature: If specimen will reach the lab within 72 hours of collection, it can be transported at ambient temperature (20-25 °C). If not, specimen should be delivered within a cooler with adequate ice packs to keep the specimen cool
  - Maximum Submission Delay: 72 hours
  - Container: Sterile 1-liter Nalgene wide mouth specimen jars with screw cap, Sterile 120 mL cup with screw cap with 0.1 N sodium thiosulfate
- **Cooling tower**
  - Temperature: If specimen will reach the lab within 72 hours of collection, it can be transported at ambient temperature (20-25 °C). If not, specimen should be delivered within a cooler with adequate ice packs to keep the specimen cool
  - Maximum Submission Delay: 72 hours
  - Container: Sterile 125 mL Nalgene bottle with wide mouth and screw cap lid with 0.1 N sodium thiosulfate

## Laboratory Unit

Bacteriology

## **Methodology**

Culture

## **Test Request**

Coming Soon

## **Possible Results:**

- Present
- Absent

## **Reference Range**

Absent

## **Rejection Criteria**

- Unreadable/missing/insufficient labeling
- Wrong specimen collection kit
- Expired specimen collection kit
- Storage/transportation requirements not met
- Leaking or contaminated specimen transport container
- Quantity not sufficient
- Specimen too old
  - Collected it in acceptable kit but did not submit within appropriate time window
- Improperly collected specimen
- Specimen not inoculated/ no specimen submitted

## **Result Reported**

10 days

## **LOINC Code(s)**

87957-7