

AFB Culture – Testing Temporarily Performed at Reference Laboratory

Orderable: AFB Culture [LAB877]

Effective immediately, AFB Cultures from non-sterile body sites will be temporarily tested at LabCorp.

| PRIOR TESTING LABORATORY | CURRENT TESTING LABORATORY |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| VCU Health Microbiology Laboratory | LabCorp |

BACKGROUND:

Due to a national reagent shortage, AFB (acid-fast bacilli) cultures from non-sterile specimens (example: respiratory specimens) will temporarily be sent to a reference laboratory for testing.

Testing impact to AFB cultures for non-sterile specimens:

- The VCU Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will still be able to perform the TB PCR on sputum as normal.
 - The TB PCR cannot be performed on low volume (<3mL) specimens.
- The TB PCR will not be performed on BAL specimens.
- There will be a 24-48hr delay in receiving AFB smear results.
- Susceptibility testing will automatically be performed if AFB grow in culture.
- You may place AFB culture orders as normal in EPIC, the VCU Health Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will automatically send the specimen to the reference laboratory.

For questions, please contact Pathology Client Services at (804) 828-7284 or Microbiology Laboratory at (804) 628-4000.