

# Lakeland Laboratory

## Technical Bulletin

1/27/2020

### MRSA PCR Nasal Screen Collection and Reporting Changes

Effective 1/29/2020, the MRSA PCR Nasal screen will only report the presence or absence of Methicillin Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) DNA and the preferred collection method will change to the ESwab Liquid Amies collection swab.

- POSITIVE: MRSA DNA Detected
- NEGATIVE: MRSA DNA Not Detected

NOTE: *The presence of Methicillin Susceptible Staphylococcus aureus (MSSA) DNA will no longer be tested for or reported.*

#### ESwab MRSA PCR Collection Instructions

- With patient's head tilted back, insert dry ESwab approximately 1-2cm into one nostril.
- Rotate swab against the inside of the nostril (nares) for 3 seconds.
- Apply slight pressure with a finger on the outside of the nose to ensure good contact between the swabs and the inside of nose.
- Using the same swab, repeat for the other nostril.
- Place swab into ESwab container and break swab shaft at breakpoint.
- Make sure the white cap is secured tightly on the transport tube.



#### MRSA PCR Testing Information

Specimen	<b>Preferred: ESwab Copan Liquid Amies Collection</b> Alternative: Copan Liquid Stuart - double swab collection (red top)	
Transport	Transport at room temperature	
Test Code	EPIC: LAB2125	SUNQUEST: MRSPCR
Fee	170.96	
Turn Around Time	24 hours	
Limitations	This assay is not intended to diagnose, guide or monitor treatment for MRSA infections, or determine susceptibility to methicillin.	
Sensitivity	92.9%	
Specificity	97.6%	

For additional information or questions please contact Spectrum Health Lakeland Laboratory Client Services:

- Call (269) 983-8311
- 1-800-513-9193

Or visit the Lakeland laboratory website: [www.lakelandhealth.org/lab](http://www.lakelandhealth.org/lab) then select laboratory test menu.