

To: SHC, LPCH, UHA, and PCHA Medical Staff

From: Stanford Health Care Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Subject: Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will offer **Legionella PCR, Amoeba Panel PCR, and Acanthamoeba PCR.**

Date: May 26, 2022

Starting June 15th 2022, the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory will offer **Legionella PCR, Amoeba Panel PCR, and Acanthamoeba PCR.**

Legionella is an important cause of pulmonary infection. Microbiological culture is slow and insensitive. The new PCR assay will replace culture and positive PCR results will be reflexed to culture for species identification. Detection of Legionella cell-free DNA can also be ordered for the rapid and non-invasive diagnosis of legionellosis.

Naegleria fowleri, Acanthamoeba spp., and Balamuthia mandrillaris are free-living amoebas associated with severe infection of the central nervous system. Acanthamoeba also causes of contact lens keratitis. Detection of amoeba cell-free DNA in the CSF can be used for timely and non-invasive diagnosis of amoebic encephalitis.

Stanford Clinical Microbiology has developed and validated these PCR assays. The same assays can be performed on multiple sample types. The assays will have 1-3 day turn-around time.

Effective June 15, 2022 – Assays Offered

Test Name	Test Code	Pathogens	Specimen Type	Turnaround Time (TAT)
Legionella PCR	LABLEGPCR	This PCR assay detects all species of Legionella including <i>L. pneumophila</i>	Plasma; expectorated sputum, induced sputum, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL); tracheal aspirate, bronchial brush, fresh tissue, and sterile body fluids.	1-3 days
Amoeba Panel PCR	LABBANPCR	This multiplex PCR assay detects <i>Balamuthia mandrillaris</i> , <i>Acanthamoeba</i> species, and <i>Naegleria fowleri</i> .	Fresh tissue, paraffin embedded tissue (block or scrolls), sterile body fluids, corneal scrapings.	1-3 days
Acanthamoeba PCR	LABACAPCR	This PCR assay detects <i>Acanthamoeba</i> species.	Fresh tissue, paraffin embedded tissue (block or scrolls), sterile body fluids, corneal scrapings.	1-3 days

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