
Test Guideline Changes for Nasal and Throat Cultures

Updates to microbiology laboratory guidelines emphasize that the upper respiratory tract naturally contains a variety of normal bacterial. As a result, testing should focus on detecting specific bacterial pathogens that are most likely to indicate disease in symptomatic patients.¹

To ensure the culture is set with the appropriate media to optimize pathogen growth, please order one of the tests listed below.

Our Test Menu

Throat/Nasopharyngeal

- [STRSC](#) Culture, Streptococcus Group A
-May be used if other beta hemolytic strep (groups C or G) or Arcanobacterium sp. Are suspected to be responsible for symptoms
- [GASPCR](#) Rapid Streptococcus Group A DNA Screen with Reflex to Culture (Throat)
- [BPERD](#) Bordetella pertussis DNA Detection
- [SPPRO](#) Corynebacterium diphtheriae Culture (Order as Special Procedure, Other to ARUP 0060360)

Nasal

- [MRSCU](#) Culture, Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA)

Sinus

- [SINCU](#) Culture, Sinus (includes Gram Stain)

Routine bacterial cultures of non-invasively collected nasal or throat specimens must be accompanied with additional documentation (i.e. abscess). Any swab from a throat source that is ordered as a routine culture (codes AERCU or ANACU) will be held pending clarification from the provider.

References:

1. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 5th edition. May 2023.