

Tuberculosis lab results

Any laboratory that isolates *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* from a patient specimen must submit a culture to the public health laboratory as soon as available from the primary isolate on which a diagnosis is established.

Drug susceptibility

When tuberculosis is detected, clinical laboratories must test the specimen for drug susceptibility.

The exception is if such testing has already been performed on a sample obtained from the same patient within the previous three months.

Multi-drug resistant

If drug susceptibility testing determines the culture to be resistant to at least **isoniazid** and **rifampin**, prepare another culture or subculture from each patient for the public health lab.

Because multi-drug resistant (MDR) TB patients pose a high risk to public health, all instances of MDR TB must be reported promptly to the public health department.

Positive AFB Stain

Whenever a clinical laboratory finds a positive AFB stain in a patient with known or suspected tuberculosis and the patient has not had a culture which identifies that acid fast organism within the past 30 days, the clinical laboratory shall culture and identify the acid fast bacteria or refer a subculture to another laboratory for those purposes.

Phone or fax within 1 working day

☎ 454-4114

📠 454-5049 fax

... when your lab reports multi-drug resistance TB results to any health care provider within Santa Cruz County.

Include this information in your report:

- Date specimen was obtained and source (sputum, wound drainage, etc.)
- Specimen accession or unique ID
- Lab findings for tests performed and date of result
- Patient ID
- Patient info (name, gender, DOB, address, phone)
- Health care provider who ordered test (name, address, phone)

What about out-of-county medical providers with in-county patients?

If the patient lives in Santa Cruz County but the referring provider is out of county, you must notify both the other county's public health department as well as Santa Cruz County HSA (as noted above).



To prevent possible infection of medical staff or other patients, do not send any TB patient directly to HSA or any other medical facility. Phone first so that arrangements can be made for an appropriate reception.

See also:
Section 3
Specific Diseases & Conditions
Think TB!
for additional information about TB testing and referring TB patients.