



MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Ministry of Health
Department of Bacteriology



Specimen collection and transport of specimens for meningococcal sepsis and meningitis to Medical Research Institute

Meningococcal sepsis and meningitis are caused by a bacterium known as *Neisseria meningitidis*. It is a 'medical emergency' with very high mortality. Mortality rate for meningitis is >50% and >10% may develop complications. About 8-15% of patients with sepsis will die within 24-48hours.

Laboratory-confirmed cases of meningococcal sepsis and meningitis had risen since December 2019 to date. Hospital Consultant Microbiologists has reported suspected cases to National Reference Laboratory, Medical Research Institute from many areas such as Colombo, Mannar, Batticaloa and the age ranged from 43 days to 55 years.

Available Tests for Confirmation, Specimen Collection and Transport to the National Reference Laboratory for Clinical Microbiology, Medical Research Institute

Test	Specimen	Transport	Turn-around-Time	*Mode of report delivery
Realtime PCR for the detection of meningococcus (as well as pneumococcus and H. influenzae)	Blood in plain sterile bottle/tube Serum CSF	Cool box [temperature +4°C]	1 day	Email, Phone, Fax, printed copy
Bacterial culture	**Blood in automated culture bottle	Room temperature	-	Email, Phone, Fax, printed copy
Bacterial antigen	CSF	Cool box [temperature +4°C]	Same day	Email, Phone, Fax, printed copy
Bacterial isolates for identification	In sealed media slants or culture plates	Room temperature	-	Email, Phone, Fax, printed copy

*Please send the Email address, mobile no. or fax no. of a responsible person, printed copy will be delayed.

** if automated blood culture bottle is required please request (pediatric/adult)

For further information on the laboratory diagnosis, please contact:

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26.01.2020

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