

PROGRAM Standard Operating Procedure – Laboratory Services	
Title: MIC53600 – Satellite Test	Policy Number:
Program Name: Laboratory Services	
Applicable Domain: Lab, DI and Pharmacy Services	
Additional Domain(s):	
Effective Date:	Effective Date:
Issuing Authority: Director, Health Services	Date Approved:
Accreditation Canada Applicable Standard: N/A	

**GUIDING PRINCIPLE:**

The satellite test is used as an identification test for *Haemophilus influenzae*.

**PURPOSE/RATIONALE:**

This standard operating procedure describes how to perform the satellite test.

**SCOPE/APPLICABILITY:**

This procedure applies to Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) performing the satellite test.

**SAMPLE INFORMATION:**

Type
One, well isolated colony

**REAGENTS and/or MEDIA:**

- Blood agar
- Chocolate agar

**SUPPLIES:**

- QC organism: *Staphylococcus aureus* ATCC 25923
- Disposable loops or needles

**EQUIPMENT**

- 35° CO<sub>2</sub> incubator

**SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS:**

Containment Level 2 facilities, equipment, and operational practices for work involving infectious or potential infectious materials or cultures.


- Ensure that appropriate hand hygiene practices be used.
- Lab gown must be worn when performing activities with potential pathogens.
- Gloves must be worn when direct skin contact with infected materials is unavoidable.
- Eye protection must be used when there is a known or potential risk of exposure of splashes.
- All procedures that may produce aerosols, or involve high concentrations or large volumes should be conducted in a biological safety cabinet (BSC).
- The use of needles, syringes and other sharp objects should be strictly limited.

All patient specimens are assumed to be potentially infectious. Routine Practices must be followed. Since viable micro-organisms are used, all cultures must be handled with appropriate precautions. All equipment in contact with cultures should be decontaminated by appropriate methods.

**PROCEDURE INSTRUCTIONS:**

Step	Action
<b>Performing the satellite test</b>	
1	Subculture organism being tested to Blood agar and Chocolate agar.
2	Using a disposable loop or needle, streak <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 25923 on the inoculated Blood agar plate.
3	Incubate the plates for 24 hours in the CO <sub>2</sub> incubator.
4	After 24 hours incubation, examine the Blood agar plate for the presence of colonies that satellite around the <i>Staphylococcus</i> streak.
5	Use the colonies growing on the Chocolate agar for further testing and susceptibility testing if required.

**INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS:**

IF	THEN
Growth of tiny colonies surrounding the <i>Staphylococcus</i> streak	<b>Satellite test = Positive</b>
No growth of tiny colonies surrounding the <i>Staphylococcus</i> streak	<b>Satellite test = Negative</b>
	

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**LIMITATIONS:**

1. *Brucella* can be confused with *Haemophilus*; this test separates these genera, since *Brucella* spp. grows on Blood agar without *Staphylococci* to supply NAD.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Clinical Microbiology Procedures Handbook, 4<sup>th</sup> edition, ASM Press, 2016

**APPROVAL:**

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Date

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**REVISION HISTORY:**

REVISION	DATE	Description of Change	REQUESTED BY
1.0	24 Mar 19	Initial Release	L. Steven
2.0	30 Jun 21	Procedure reviewed and added to NTHSSA policy template	L. Steven