

Microbiology Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2024
12:15 to 13:00

1. Throat cultures on respiratory bench?
 - Laura S has noticed the wound bench is becoming busier. Wasn't sure if throats should be moved to respiratory bench
 - Everyone said no, it is good how it is. We can all just work together when one bench is busy and help each other out. Just need teamwork
2. Vacation time 2024/2025:
 - Reminder this is due by January 31. Then it will be approved by February 14
 - Only annual leave can be included on this round of approvals. After the 31, it goes by first come first serve
 - Laura S wanted to remind everyone that during the year, if no one is off you can submit a leave request. Just give some notice so the schedule can be changed
3. Freezing positive Flu/RSV/ENT/ADV/HMPV:
 - Laura S was told by OCPHO that we do not need to freeze these anymore however they often change their minds
 - Laura S asked if this is a lot of work. Everyone said no so we will continue to freeze them in case they are ever needed
 - We are going to begin sending the positive COVIDs to NML again for variant screening. So, order ?REFN on positives and put them in the rack in the fridge (don't freeze them). Laura S has done the process with Chelsea, Jen and Katie and will make sure everyone knows how to do it. We will send them regularly (weekly or every 2 weeks) depending on how many we have
4. Friday duties:
 - Laura S wanted to see what everyone thinks about them
 - Everyone thinks they are helpful so we will keep them
5. ESBL confirmed isolate:
 - Laura S just wanted to let everyone know the reason why the isolate ESBL is added when the MAST is positive for ESBL
 - Since we do not have an isolate called E.coli ESBL we have no way to track the number of ESBL or a way to pull a report of them all. Using the isolate ESBL allows us to do this so please ensure you always add the ESBL isolate and change it to an A so it doesn't print out on the report

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6. Unpacking coolers:
 - Laura S wanted to see if there is still an issue of waiting for the MLA to unpack the coolers so we can have our micro samples
 - Everyone said they will go and take out their samples and just let the MLA know, so this isn't an issue

7. Micro staffing numbers:
 - Each lab department has its number of approved positions. For micro that is 5 technologists
 - Right now, we have 6 but that is to double fill for Solomons upcoming retirement. Katie and Solomon are sharing a position right now but as of now when Solomon retires, there will not be an additional technologist hired
 - If we go down to 5 techs, we will need to adjust the work we do. Last time this happened we sent out samples that aren't as critical such as throats and genitals. We will work together to see what we can do with 5 techs safely
 - Laura S has worked with the lab director to come up with a plan that would involve more staff. This would include micro doing more testing (such as GC, stools). The was called a forced growth proposal. At this time, it is not known if this proposal will be approved due to financial issues with NTHSSA
 - Laura S wanted everyone to be aware of all this in case information goes around that we are losing staff or testing. We won't be losing either in microbiology we just may go back to the staffing we are funded for, and this will mean we won't be able to do all the work we are doing now

8. Roundtable:
 - Moses: Wants the second BioFire to come back as if something goes wrong with the one we have, we won't have a backup. Laura S thinks that is reasonable and she will work in the near future to set the second one up
 - Solomon: Wanted to bring to everyone's attention that he had a GNB grow on CNA plate. Even though this isn't supposed to occur it sometimes can. This GNB was set up to a GPI card that did give a reasonable ID of a Staph species. This highlights the shortfalls of the VITEK ID and when it is important for us to look at the whole picture of a specimen
 - Katie: Wanted to bring to everyone's attention an incident where she checked the req left on her bench for a blood culture collected in the evening and all the listed antibiotics were wrong. This is a good example of why we need to check these reqs to make sure all the information entered is correct

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- Jen: Wanted to confirm we order ?REFN for positive COVIDS. Laura S says yes as for now we will be sending them out. And just put them in the fridge and not freezer
- Laura G: Wanted to talk about the VITEK and if you don't send your cassette to the VITEK from the FlexPrep you do have a few seconds to send it before the cassette is taken by the VITEK. She was able to stop the cassette before the VITEK scanned the cards and was able to still have her samples processed and results come across to the LIS