

Microbiology Meeting Minutes

December 17, 2025

12:00 to 13:00

Attendee	Present?	Attendee	Present?
Laura S	✓	Chelsea	✓
Moses	✓	Jen	✓
Laura G	✓	Katie	✓
Minutes recorder: Laura S			

1. How are things going?

- Today is Moses' birthday. Happy Birthday Moses!!!
- Laura S has interviewed one applicant for the position. He did really well but still has to write his exam in February. She is also interviewing someone tomorrow who is an international tech but is working in BC and does have his CSMLS

2. HEPA filter for CO2 incubator:

- Laura S noticed a little flashing message on the bottom CO2 incubator, and it was saying HEPA filter needs to be changed. The old incubator used to alarm when this happens but now it is just a very small message
- Make sure to check the screens of the incubators each day for any issues. Laura S will add this to our daily temperature logs
- We changed the filter on Friday. Everyone but Jen got to watch. The top one needs to be changed in January. We will make sure Jen is here when it gets done
- After you change it, you need to record it on the incubator screen and also either order new filters or write it on the ordering list

3. CO2 measurement:

- Laura S sent an email about the FYRITE that it is not working, and the system has been discontinued. She discarded the broken device and the extra fluid from the back storage room
- Laura S reached out to APL to see what they will be doing and there are 2 handheld devices they are using
- Laura S sent the products to Biomed so they can look and decide which one is best. We want the easiest to use and maintain
- It will be easier than the FYRITE and is electronic. You will get a measurement on the display screen so will be more accurate
- It is a requirement that the CO2 is measured monthly and when the tank is changed to verify the %CO2

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4. TB testing:

- There continues to be a lot of confusion around this
- Public Health says they were told by the lab that one sample can have GX and culture performed on it. Laura S said no that we cannot share samples. This is why they have been sending 2 reqs with each sample
- Public Health also said that we were rejecting samples and not doing the GX, which must be a misunderstanding. We have had to cancel a couple because of NSQ but we are not refusing to do the GX
- Going forward, if the requisition has an outbreak number, automatically order the GX on sample number 1 and the others should go for culture
- If GX is written on the requisition, just do it regardless of where it is from or if it is part of the outbreak
- If the STH Microbiology req is used for AFB culture, please scratch out PCR and write on AFB culture. There has been some confusion at APL if we are requested GX or culture and this is probably why
- The three negative cultures rule is to take someone off precautions and only applies to hospital patients according to OCPHO. In the communities they are more interested in screening individuals and are not worried about having 3 negative culture results necessarily
- Try to work through the requests the best you can. It is confusing and this is the reason I wanted micro to sort through these samples and not burden the core lab staff

5. VITEK Interface:

- It seems like it is working now
- Everything was reset with the power outages
- Luckily Keith took pictures of all the settings, so he sent those to Laura S, and she has been trying to enter everything that is different
- This has been a real group effort to get it fixed
- It has also been a lot of extra work for the techs, so great job everyone on working through this issue

6. Roundtable:

- No one has anything to add