

Microbiology Meeting Minutes January 21, 2026 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?

- Chelsea let us know about calls she received on the weekend about phosphate buffer for gastric washing samples for TB. Laura S is aware of this and let everyone know that Jaime has ordered phosphate buffer from APL to be used for this testing. It will be specimen control ordering this buffer and making sure they have inventory. We are not sure what the expiry date will be, but she will make sure there is always some here. APL said if it isn't in the sample, it reduces the sensitivity of the testing.
- Laura S let everyone know that a verbal offer has gone out on the micro job. Just waiting for him to sign the offer. It should be a really good fit. His name is Francis and he is coming from BC. He is originally from Nigeria and has been in Canada since 2023.

2. Accreditation:

- Go over Accreditation topic Client Identification
- It is a Required Safety Practice (RSP)
- There will be a tracer exercise with Laura S and either Amy or Lisa this afternoon
- This was the December topic
- Next week we will need to do the January topic and the tracer for it

3. Peritoneal fluids:

- These are not true fluids and often have a lot of organisms growing in them
- We used to send them out as they often require consultation with the microbiologist
- After we sent them out, we always saw they were no growth and then it didn't make sense to send them out when we could do the work here

We decided we will keep these samples here and treat them like a deep wound and follow that SOP for any workup. Question about if the gram needs to be called if positive and Laura S will look into this. If we have one and are unsure what to work up, you can always call the microbiologist and they will help you

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4. FS microbiology samples:
 - Originally, we were going to discuss the errors that were being made and to make sure to check the requisition carefully, however, now there has been a change
 - FS will be sending the micro to us not ordered and we will Medipatient and order it ourselves
 - This should be ok and is probably easier for us and for them
 - Have to MP it under Stanton and Laura S confirmed this is correct and have to use NIC FS in MP as the provider
 - Then order it with the FS locations on the requisition
 - Let Laura S know of any issues with this or any questions anyone has
5. Stored Isolates:
 - This is a requirement of our RG2 license with PHAC if the organisms will be in the lab for more than 30 days
 - Laura S did the inventory on Monday and everything was good. Nothing was missing and all the correct information was on the tubes and on the log
6. TQC Errors:
 - If you get an error when entering QC results in TQC don't just delete the line and carry on
 - If Laura S is here let her know and she can fix it and then you can re-enter the results
 - If Laura S isn't here, then it is ok to delete the line just to get it off your list but send Laura S a message to let her know
 - The SPN beads was giving Laura S an issue on Monday and wasn't sure how long it had been doing that for
 - It is good to know all the lot numbers for the testing we do and that includes the organism
 - If anything doesn't work or there are issues let Laura S know. The issue with the VITEK door she didn't know about until she used it. Anything different or weird like that let her know, either TEAMS or email just so she is aware
7. New swabs:
 - Stores is going to be changing to the pink C&S swabs as they are cheaper and come from a Canadian distributor. They are made by Starplex
 - They will be ordered from VWR
 - Not sure how long this will take but just be aware
 - Laura S wanted to ask how the new loops are. Are we used to them yet?
8. GX-MTB:
 - How has this testing been going? Any more issues with the requisition and what tests are required?

There was one issue with an NSQ sample but otherwise things have been good

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9. Stainer and CO2 monitor:
 - The automated stainer will be here by the end of March. If it comes when Laura S is away in February, we will just put it somewhere until she is back
 - We need to think about where to put it. It needs a plug and the waste container needs to go in the front.
 - Laura S is going to email everyone a picture so we can all thing of the best place for it
 - The new CO2 monitor is coming in February when Laura S is away.
 - It looks like a label maker
 - If anyone wants to open it up when it comes and read the instructions, that is fine. Laura S doesn't know how it works so we will all need to learn together
10. February 5:
 - There is a high school student coming to the lab to learn more about being an MLT
 - She will be here from 1 to 5
 - Laura G is the responsible person that day so she will need to show her around micro and explain what we do
 - If there are interesting agar plates (chromogenic plates) or gram stains, have them ready for her
 - It is good to promote the career and make her interested in micro 😊
11. PCR testing:
 - Laura S realized the keypads were different. Some had NO RESULT as an option and others had INVALID and ERROR as options. She decided that if we cannot get a result, we will report NO RESULT
 - The SOP have been updated to say this
12. Roundtable:
 - Laura G asked what happened with a requisition she had on a patient from Tulita with an AB address. It was figured out in the morning