

OBSOLETE TEST

NOTIFICATION DATE: November 24, 2021

EFFECTIVE DATE: December 21, 2021

STAPH AUREUS CULTURE (MSSA + MRSA)

12427/LAB12427

QUICK REFERENCE

Effective December 21, 2021, the Staph aureus culture (MSSA + MRSA), test number 12427/LAB12427, will become obsolete and will be made not orderable.

DETAILS

Methicillin resistant *Staph aureus* (MRSA) infection is associated with health care or community acquired transmission, and, due to resistance to some antibiotics, is difficult to treat. Prevention of the infection by timely testing and diagnosis is crucial to prevent the spread of MRSA. On December 21, the Allina Health Central Microbiology Laboratory will discontinue offering Staph aureus culture (MSSA + MRSA).

The suggested replacement test is a more rapid and sensitive PCR-based test, MRSA/MSSA PCR, nares (12440/LAB12440). The new PCR-based assay has a much better sensitivity and specificity, as well as a faster turn-around time, than culture-based testing.

- The new MRSA/MSSA PCR nasal assay has sensitivity and specificity of 92% and 98%, respectively, for MRSA and 93% and 90.5% for *Staphylococcus aureus*.
- Results will be available as two components: MRSA and SA (*Staphylococcus aureus*)

Test information for the MRSA/MSSA PCR, nares assay is available in the new test announcement.

QUESTIONS: Contact your Allina Health Laboratory account representative, or our Client Services department