

# Blood Culture Reporting Changes

February 23, 2026

Effective February 17, 2026, Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) adjusted blood culture reporting to improve turnaround time for preliminary results, ensure key information is provided on the gram stain, and to avoid unnecessary testing.

**BLOOD CULTURE REPORTING CHANGES**

**SUMMARY OF THE CHANGES:**

Blood Culture	Change	Additional Information
Gram Positive Organism(s)	Previously, organisms were reported at the group level (e.g., Coagulase-negative Staphylococcus, Viridans Streptococci group). Now, specific organism species names (e.g., <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i> , <i>Streptococcus mitis</i> ) will be reported as soon as they are identified.	Lab comments will alert if concern for possible skin or environmental contamination.
Gram stain	Adding comment will indicate the bottle type of aerobic, anaerobic or pediatric.	The initial comment "from anaerobic bottle" may be updated to "from aerobic and anaerobic bottles" if the organism is subsequently identified in additional bottles.
Repeat Positive on same patient	New positive culture will be referred to a previous antimicrobial susceptibility test (AST) if specific criteria* are met.	This avoids unnecessary / duplicative testing.

**\*REPEAT POSITIVE CRITERIA**

Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (AST) will **NOT** be done when the organism in the newer culture is the **same species** as identified in the previous culture, and the new culture was **collected within 4 days** of the original culture (collection day = Day 1).

Initial Culture	Additional Culture	AST Performed
<b>Scenario 1: Additional culture within 4-day window AND same species identified</b>		
E. coli (collected Jan 1)	E. coli (collected Jan 4)	<b>NO (Refer to previous culture)</b>
<b>Scenario 2: Outside of 4-day window</b>		
E. coli (collected Jan 1)	E. coli (collected Jan 5)	<b>YES</b>
<b>Scenario 3: Different species identified</b>		
E. coli (collected Jan 1)	S. aureus	<b>YES</b>

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100