



Maryland State TB Laboratory Updates

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October 1, 2026

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Updated Laboratory Contact Info:

- TB Lab Office Services Clerk position lost in October 2025.
- Updated lab phone #: 443-681-3950
- Updated lab fax #: 443-681-4504
- TB Lab email: tb.lab@maryland.gov

Lab Web Portal (preferred)

- MDH's Electronic Test Orders and Results (ETOR) platform.
- Allows for electronic test ordering and access to results.
- Provides limited specimen tracking.
- Facilitates communication of testing updates.
- Currently 13/24 LHDs use ETOR for specimen submissions

Paper Lab Reqs:

- Fillable pdf available from website.
- Please make sure labels are legible and patient name is “Last name, First name” format.
- Patient information cannot be changed by the lab if information matches lab req and results have been reported – a Request to Update Patient Demographic Information form must be submitted.

Vitek MS Prime

- MALDI-TOF instrument for the identification of all positive cultures.
- Approximately tripled the number of mycobacteria species/complexes found in the identification database.
- More user-friendly and efficient than the previous version.

Changes to ID Reporting:

- “Acid-fast bacillus *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex ruled out”
- gordonae/paragordonae,
scrofulaceum/parascrofulaceum,
mucogenicum/phocaicum
- (Presumptive) IDs
- *Nocardia* sp.

TB/MAC PCR

- Nested real-time PCR to identify TB complex and M. avium complex from positive MGIT broths.
- Negative isolates then reflexed to MALDI-TOF.
- Decreases turnaround time for identification of TB from culture.
- Instrumentation installed in TB Lab.
- Validation testing completed. Write up in progress.
- Completion of SOPM and training to begin shortly.

Moxifloxacin DST in MGIT

- Rapid first-line testing for Moxifloxacin.
- Proposal for validation/methodology written and isolates for testing identified.
- Validation testing in progress.

PZA Testing Disruptions

- PZA phenotypic DST is always susceptible to higher risk of false resistance.
- There have been two manufacturer recalls since 2024.
- Our lab has recently seen some higher incidence of resistant results.
- Isolates may be sent for MDDR if clinical risk factors are involved.

TB WGS

- The Core Sequencing lab ran its first test sequencing run on 7 TB isolates in July 2026.
- Provides in-house results for epidemiological data and molecular DSTs.
- Further discussions of testing protocols/workflow and full validation study still needed.

CDC MIC Testing

- Provides minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC).
- rifampin, isoniazid, ethambutol, levofloxacin, moxifloxacin, amikacin, linezolid, clofazimine, bedaquiline, and pretomanid.
- Rifampin resistance or compelling clinical need.
- Reflexed from MDDR if rifampin resistance detected.
- Contact the lab with requests.

Questions?

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- Fax: 443-681-4504

- Website:

<https://health.maryland.gov/laboratories/pages/home.aspx>