



Bacterial and Fungal Identification Sample Submission Guidelines

Samples are to be shipped to ARL's facility in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Please contact ARL via email or phone at (405)271-1144 or toll-free at 1-800-393-1595 if you have any questions about our services or would like additional information about microbial identification at ARL.

A completed sample submission form indicating the service(s) requested must be submitted with the samples or via online submission. Please include any additional information that helps to specify the services requested. The submission form must be sent with an authorized signature and payment method and terms must be in place prior to the start of sample work.

Microbial identification can only be performed on pure colonies. Clients may submit plates with more than one colony type, provided the colonies are distinct and separate from each other. In the case of a plate with multiple colonies, the client should clearly indicate which colonies they would like identified to avoid delays. If the colonies indicated for identification are not distinct and separate from possible contaminating growth, an isolation and subculture will be necessary for an additional fee. The number of colonies the client wishes to have identified should be indicated on the submission form or online submission in addition to the plate.

Identification of samples submitted as liquids will be attempted directly out of the liquid media, unless the client requests isolation and subculture. Due to the indistinct nature of microbial growth in liquid media, ARL recommends liquid samples be submitted with requests for isolation and subculture. If the client does not request isolation and subculture from the liquid, and the identification directly from liquid media fails, the client is responsible for the cost of the identification, and will be contacted and asked if they would like us to attempt isolation and subculture to obtain distinct growth on solid media. This additional work will be assessed an isolation and subculture fee. The identification can then be reattempted at the normal fee.

Samples submitted for identification should be submitted as fresh as possible. The age of the microbial growth can affect the identification process. Older colonies, especially fungal colonies, can cause identification failures. The lab will determine if a sample submission requires subculture and isolation due to age, and the necessary work performed. Each colony that requires subculture will be assigned an isolation and subculture fee.

Turnaround Time is based on business days and the receipt day of the sample. If the sample submission is unclear, incomplete, or incorrect this may result in delays while clarification is requested from the client. If the sample is mixed, old, or the growth to identify is not visible, there will be a delay in turnaround time. In cases needing clarification from the client or isolation and subculture of the organism, the turnaround time starts when the sample submission instructions are clear and the organism is ready for identification. Data packets for bacterial and fungal identification are available upon request for an additional fee.