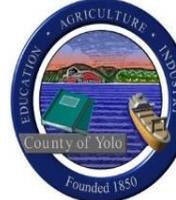


**NAPA-SOLANO-YOLO-MARIN COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY**
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FAIRFIELD, CA 94533
(707) 784-4410 FAX (707) 423-1979



Test	Throat culture (for Group A <i>Streptococcus</i>)
Test Description	A throat culture involves screening of throat and nasopharyngeal swab specimens for beta-hemolytic <i>Streptococcus</i> species. The amount and Lancefield grouping of isolated <i>Streptococcus</i> species will be noted on the report. Antibiotic susceptibility testing on isolated <i>Streptococcus</i> species, except for <i>Enterococcus</i> species, is not routinely performed since these organisms are typically susceptible to penicillin.
Acceptable specimens	Throat or nasopharyngeal specimens collected using a cotton, Dacron, or calcium alginate swab or Amies transport swab are acceptable. However, an Amies transport swab is recommended for any swab requiring transport to the laboratory.
Specimen collection	Samples should be collected from the posterior pharynx, tonsils, and other inflamed areas. During sampling, the swab should not touch the tongue, cheeks, or teeth.
Specimen storage	Dry swabs can be kept for up to 2 hours at room temperature before testing. Specimens in Amies transport media can be kept for up to 72 hours refrigerated (2–8°C).
Specimen shipping	Specimens in Amies transport media should be shipped refrigerated and received by the laboratory within 72 hours of collection.
CPT code	87081
Test fee	Refer to the posted fee schedule
Result availability (turnaround time)	Results from a throat culture are typically faxed to the submitter as a preliminary report on day 1 and a final report on day 2–3.