

BULK, Test Code 1123-MRSA Culture & Total Bacterial Culture w/ ID

Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* is a multi drug resistant bacterium that is normally associated with hospitals and healthcare facilities. Now it can be found in classrooms, locker rooms and athletic facilities like wrestling rooms. The MRSA found in hospitals is referred as HA-MRSA or hospital associated MRSA. People who haven't been to a hospital or healthcare facility in two years and contract MRSA have a strain called CA-MRSA, community associated MRSA. The reason why this bacterium is so devastating is once it enters the body thru a cut it can move from organ to organ with ease. Staph. aureus is spread thru bodily fluids and skin to skin contact. The bacterium likes to grow on surfaces and fabrics like gowns and curtains.

1. Wear gloves when collecting the sample.
2. Samples should be collected when the material is porous and swabbing is not practical.
3. 25 to 50 grams is the preferred amount needed for the culture. The sample can be placed in a Ziploc® bag for transportation.
4. Bulk samples can be shipped ground and by regular mail, no ice pack is needed for these samples.

References:

Dillon, H. Kenneth, L. Hung, J. Miller, Field Guide for the Determination of Biological Contaminants in Environmental Samples., 5.2.6. (2005).

Macher, Janet, Sc.D., M.P.H., Bioaerosols , 12.1-12.1.4.2, 18.2.1, (1999).

<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/mrsa/>, Center for Disease Control, (2007).