

**PARTICIPANT STATISTICS**

Specimen 1 - 25 year old Male, sore throat

Organisms	Extent 1	2	3	4	5
826 <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>			1		
878 <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>			1		
922 Neg for Grp A strep screen by culture	27	19	4		3
923 Pos for Grp A strep screen by culture			1		1
927 Neg for strep; not screened for GC		2			
947 No aerobic growth on blood agar		1			1
949 No aerobic growth		1			
975 Neg for strep Group A antigen		4			1
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	28	12	7		6

Flagging appears for failure to report 826, 922, 947 or 975.

In addition to the required organism, participants in all extents may report 878.

This swab produced *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* sp. The first sign in the laboratory could be the appearance of the kidney-bean shaped *Neisseria* that may be intracellular or not, and the failure for colonies to develop on BAP. Most of the non-pathogenic *Neisseria* (NPN) will grow on simple media; GC will not. It is most helpful if the physician alerts the lab, but unless the lab habitually does GC-specific plates, these organisms will be missed. Test kits for GC are fast and accurate and many do not require primary plating, as GC are poor survivors. Streak Thayer-Martin or NYC media for confirmation of ID for GC and MC as well as the regular BAP.

The *Staph* is normal skin flora.

Specimen 2 - 20 year old Male, fever headache

Organisms	Extent 1	2	3	4	5
878 <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>			1		
887 <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>			1		
921 Pos for beta-hemolytic strep screen	2	1			1
922 Neg for Grp A strep screen by culture		1	1		
923 Pos for Grp A strep screen by culture	28	18	5		3
976 Pos for strep Group A antigen		4			1
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	28	24	8		5

Flagging appears for failure to report 886, 887, 921, 923, 976, 985 or 994.

In addition to the required organism, participants in all extents may report 873, 874 and 878.

This throat swab produced beta *Streptococcus pyogenes* Gp. A and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* sp. Streptococci is spread person-to-person by shared food and utensils, and are airborne. As soon as school, etc. starts there is a mini-epidemic of sore throats at school and at home, if younger siblings are there. Gp. A, beta streptococci are the most common and feared: quick diagnosis is via direct antigen tests specific for Gp. A, with accuracy in the 95-98% range. It still requires a BAP back-up for swabs with <30 organisms. Gp. A strep are serious pathogens that must be treated promptly. This is a common PANIC VALUE specimen.

The *Staph* is normal skin flora.

Specimen 3 - 2 year old Female, fever

Organisms	Extent 1	2	3	4	5
825 <i>Neisseria</i> sp.; NOS			1		
881 <i>Streptococcus</i> sp.; NOS			1		
919 Neg for beta-hemolytic strep screen		2			
922 Neg for Grp A strep screen by culture	22	17	4		4
923 Pos for Grp A strep screen by culture	4	2	2		
927 Neg for strep; not screened for GC		2			
949 No aerobic growth					1
975 Neg for strep Group A antigen		4			1
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	28	25	8		6

Flagging appears for failure to report [no codes]

In addition to the required organism, participants in all extents may report 825, 881, 919, 922 and 975.

This throat revealed alpha-hemolytic *Streptococcus* sp. and *Neisseria* sp. This child has no discernible pathogens. There are many viral infections which are reasonably common to cause symptoms and which result in, "no pathogens found" reports; "found" is the operative word. Both organisms are normal throat flora even for a 2 year old.

THROAT CULTURE

Specimen 4 - 22 year old Female, cough, fever, sore throat

Organisms	Extent 1	2	3	4	5
825 <i>Neisseria</i> sp.; NOS			1		
898 <i>Streptococcus agalactiae</i>			1		
919 Neg for beta-hemolytic strep screen		2			
922 Neg for Grp A strep screen by culture	24	19	6		4
923 Pos for Grp A strep screen by culture	2				
927 Neg for strep; not screened for GC		2			
949 No aerobic growth					1
975 Neg for strep Group A antigen		4			1
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	28	25	8		6

Flagging appears for failure to report 881, 891, 898, 922, 926 or 975.

In addition to the required organism, participants in all extents may report 825.

Isolated from this throat were Group B, *Streptococcus* sp. and *Neisseria* sp. Early college students have two major ways of contracting Gp. B strep; a younger sibling in grade school and kissing. A blood agar plate (BAP) is the most accurate method to identify Grp B *Strep*. Typing antisera will ID streptococci of any type if the backup plate is positive. Antibiotic susceptibilities are being required on isolates now because some are penicillin-resistant and all beta-strep require it. Report STAT.

The *Neisseria* is a normal naso-pharyngeal resident.

Specimen 5 - 6 year old Male, mild sore throat

Organisms	Extent 1	2	3	4	5
878 <i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>			1		
887 <i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>			1		
921 Pos for beta-hemolytic strep screen	2	1			
922 Neg for Grp A strep screen by culture	2	1			
923 Pos for Grp A strep screen by culture	24	17	6		3
926 Pos for Grp B strep screen by culture					1
976 Pos for strep Group A antigen		4			1
TOTAL PARTICIPANTS	28	23	8		5

Flagging appears for failure to report 881, 887, 921, 923 or 976.

In addition to the required organism, participants in all extents may report 878.

This throat swab had *Streptococcus pyogenes*, Gp. A and *Staphylococcus epidermidis* sp. The first contacts in this age group is usually on the first day of any school. No-one has immunity to anyone else's germs. Ergo, a rash of sore throats. Schools routinely send sore throats home, where mothers may take them straight to the doctor's office. There they will use the Direct Antigen Swab of the throat, detect Gp. A strep, specifically and swab a BAP for confirmation, or detection of false negatives. Growth on BAP will detect false negative Gp. A, or other agents not Gp. A or not streptococci.

Type isolates from BAP with ABCD strep antisera. If the DA swab was found positive, the doctor treated in the office. If the BAP was positive, report it STAT. Streptococci are very dangerous in this age group.

Staphylococcus epidermidis as the name implies is a normal skin contaminant.