



March 23, 2023

To All OSPHL *M. tuberculosis* Testing Clients,

Beginning in mid-April, you will begin to see a change to the verbiage used on laboratory reports for AFB Culture by MGIT and solid media result reports. This letter details the change and rationale. Please share this message with others in your organization who may use or interpret these result reports.

### What is changing?

Beginning with results released on April 10, 2023, the Oregon State Public Health Laboratory (OSPHL) is changing the language used on result reports for AFB Culture by MGIT and solid media reports. Instead of seeing “isolated” or “not isolated,” OSPHL will use the phrase “growth” or “no growth.” Here is an example for solid media. Complete example reports with the new language are provided for reference at the end of this message.

Current report:

```
AFB CULTURE BY SOLID MEDIA  
[12/2/2019 9:44 AM CM] AFB not isolated
```

New report:

```
AFB CULTURE BY SOLID MEDIA  
[1/12/2023 5:48 PM CM] No Growth of AFB
```

### What is not changing?

There will be no changes to AFB Smear or *M. tuberculosis* susceptibility result reporting.

### Why this change?

This change is being made to provide clarity to OSPHL clients about testing methods and the results of the tests. At this time, isolation methods are not routinely used at OSPHL for identification of *M. tuberculosis* or *M. avium* complex. This allows us to rapidly provide time-sensitive results. Changing the language provides you with accuracy and transparency in our laboratory result reporting.

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We hope this notice provides you with sufficient detail to understand your result reports after the change. Please contact the OSPHL General Microbiology Section with questions at 503-693-4100:

- Marisa Frieder, General Microbiology Section Manager:  
marisa.d.frieder@oha.oregon.gov
- Caitlin Miranda, Lead Microbiologist-Tuberculosis Testing:  
caitlin.miranda@dhsoha.state.or.us

Sincerely,

Melissa Powell  
OSPHL Business Director

Marisa Frieder, PhD  
Manager, OSPHL General Microbiology

**Attachments:**

- Example Laboratory Report – Date of Birth 1/12/2023
  - o No AFB seen; No AFB Growth
- Example Laboratory Report – Date of Birth 2/17/2023
  - o AFB Smear Positive; AFB Growth

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<b>Patient name:</b>	<b>AFB 2023, TEST 2 (U)</b>	Proficiency Testing
Chart Number:		00000
Date of Birth:	1/12/2023	
County of Residence:	Unknown	
Date Collected:	1/12/2023	
Date Received:	1/12/2023	Clinician: QA, Test
<b>PHL ID Number:</b>	<b>23011200018</b>	Report Date: 1/12/2023

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## AFB Smear/Culture

### Final Report

Specimen Source  
Sputum

AFB SMEAR  
[1/12/2023 5:48 PM CM] AFB not seen

AFB Smear Reference Range  
AFB Smear Normal Result = AFB not seen

AFB CULTURE BY SOLID MEDIA  
[1/12/2023 5:48 PM CM] No Growth of AFB

AFB CULTURE BY MGIT  
[1/12/2023 5:48 PM CM] No Growth of AFB

AFB Media Comment  
[1/12/2023 5:48 PM CM]

These results include information for both solid and liquid media. Solid media is incubated for 8 weeks, liquid media is incubated for 6 weeks. In many cases, the result for one type of media may be "AFB not isolated" or "overgrown with non-AFB organisms", but the other type of media provides a result. For complete result information, please review results for both media types.

<b>Patient name:</b>	<b>AFB 2023, TEST 2 (U)</b>	Washington County Disease Control & Prevention
Chart Number:		155 N 1st Ave
Date of Birth:	2/17/2023	Suite 189
County of Residence:	Unknown	Hillsboro, OR 97124
Date Collected:	2/17/2023	(503) 846-3594
Date Received:	2/17/2023	Clinician: N/A
<b>PHL ID Number:</b>	<b>23021700004</b>	Report Date: 2/17/2023

**AFB Smear/Culture**

**Final Report**

Specimen Source  
Sputum

AFB SMEAR  
[2/17/2023 10:05 AM CM] Positive 1+

AFB Smear Reference Range  
AFB Smear Normal Result = AFB not seen

AFB CULTURE BY SOLID MEDIA  
[2/17/2023 10:06 AM CM] Presumptive Mycobacterium tuberculosis growth 1+ colonies

AFB CULTURE BY MGIT  
[2/17/2023 10:21 AM CM] AFB growth, Mycobacterium tuberculosis complex DNA detected by real-time PCR.

AFB Media Comment  
[2/17/2023 10:21 AM CM]  
These results include information for both solid and liquid media. Solid media is incubated for 8 weeks, liquid media is incubated for 6 weeks. In many cases, the result for one type of media may be "AFB not isolated" or "overgrown with non-AFB organisms", but the other type of media provides a result. For complete result information, please review results for both media types.

MYCOBACTERIUM TUBERCULOSIS COMPLEX DNA RT-PCR  
[2/17/2023 10:23 AM CM] DETECTED

MYCOBACTERIUM AVIUM COMPLEX DNA RT-PCR  
[2/17/2023 10:23 AM CM] Not Detected

AFB PCR Reference Range  
AFB PCR Normal Result = Not Detected

AFB PCR Comment  
[2/17/2023 10:23 AM CM] This test was developed and its performance characteristics determined by the Oregon State Public Health Lab. It has not been cleared by the FDA. The laboratory is regulated under CLIA as qualified to perform high-complexity testing. This test is intended for clinical purposes. It should not be regarded as investigational or for research. For more information about this assay and its performance characteristics, please refer to the laboratory test menu at [www.healthoregon.org/labtests](http://www.healthoregon.org/labtests).