

NEW TEST TEST CHANGE

NOTIFICATION DATE: 03/04/2026

EFFECTIVE DATE: 03/09/2026

Strep Throat PCR (STREPPCR) Streptococcus, Molecular Detection, Throat (EPIC)

On the effective date, Northwell Health Laboratories (Core Lab) will update the testing platform for the Strep Throat PCR Molecular Detection test. This new platform will now only detect *Streptococcus pyogenes* (Group A Strep). This change will improve test turn-around time and throughput; it also resolves previous assay performance issues and reagent shortages experienced with the previous testing platform.

The only acceptable specimen type for this test is an oropharyngeal (throat) swab collected in an ESwab collection kit. This platform change affects testing that is sent and performed at Northwell Health Laboratories (Core Lab) including outpatient sites and sites that send Strep Throat PCR specimens to Northwell Health Laboratories (Core Lab) for testing.

Northwell Health Hospital Laboratory Strep Throat molecular testing is not affected.

The Strep Throat PCR Molecular Detection test order is unchanged.

Test Requirement/ Parameters	New	Previous
Methodology	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)	Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
Organisms Detected	<i>S. pyogenes</i> (Group A Strep)	<i>S. pyogenes</i> (Group A Strep) <i>S. dysgalactiae</i> (Group C/G Strep)
Specimen Type	ESwab only	ESwab and Culturette Swab
Specimen Stability	Stored at room temperature or 2°C to 8°C for up to three days	Stored at room temperature or 2°C to 8°C for up to seven days
Reference Range	Not Detected	Not Detected
Computer Interface Code	PDM #1763099	PDM# 1763099
Test Code	STREPPCR	STREPPCR
EPIC Test Order	Streptococcus, Molecular Detection, Throat	Streptococcus, Molecular Detection, Throat

If you have any questions, please contact Client Services at (800) 472-5757.