



02/20/2026
Laboratory Update

**Change in LAB 7513 February 24th, 2026
Infant MRSA detection by PCR**

Dear Healthcare Provider,

To streamline operations and improve utilization, we will be discontinuing the SA complete cartridge and moving all nasal colonization screening to one version of MRSA-only test cartridge.

CHANGES: - Reporting will shift from Positive/Negative to Detected/ Not Detected for MRSA
-Methicillin-susceptible Staphylococcus aureus will no longer be available to add via PCR, culture option is available (LAB4171, see below).

START DATE: 2-24-2026

Replacement EPIC order: SAME

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMENS: Same as before. Nares swab, eSwab preferred

RESULT TYPE: Results will now appear as Detected or Not Detected

TURN AROUND TIME: Same as before, typically same shift as it is received at BNH and GSH

OF NOTE:

Alternative culture-based testing is available LAB 4171 Upper Respiratory Culture (eSwab from Nares). This can be an add on order to the MRSA PCR Eswab collection within 24 hours of collection.

For questions or concerns, please contact me at sajini_mathew@trihealth.com or 513-862-1604.
or Irene Hemphill at Irene_Hemphill@trihealth.com or 513-208-6747

Medical Directors, TriHealth Laboratories

Sajini Mathew MD—Bethesda North Hospital, Good Samaritan Hospital, TriHealth Anderson, Good Samaritan Western Ridge, TriHealth Kenwood
Megan Smith MD—Bethesda Arrow Springs, Bethesda Butler Hospital, McCullough Hyde Memorial Hospital