



POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL CENTRAL VALLEY HEALTH DISTRICT

SECTION: SCHOOL NURSING

POLICY # 609 THROAT CULTURES

POLICY: Central Valley Health District will provide rapid strep throat cultures to rule out Strep Throat upon the request of the parent or staff. The client will be responsible for the customary fee for this testing. Testing will be done at the CVHD main office or in the school setting under pre-arranged conditions.

PURPOSE: A throat culture is a common lab test done to rule out strep throat.

PROCEDURE:

1. Prior to test, inform parent/staff of the medical clinic policies regarding follow-up for treatment after a throat culture has been done at CVHD. *Client will be informed of these policies in an attempt to control the cost for the client and avoid unnecessary duplication of testing.*
2. Each student/staff will be individually assessed according to their symptoms. Throat cultures will not be done on anyone who is currently taking oral antibiotics or has been off antibiotics less than 48 hours.
3. Parent/staff will be informed that the culture results may not be available the day of testing, if the test is performed after 2 pm.
4. Explained throat culture test procedure to the student/staff.
5. A rapid strep culturette will be utilized to swab the throat, obtain sufficient exudates from the tonsillar area.
6. Written information on sore throat cares will be provided to student or staff and reviewed. See attached form.
7. The culturette tube, with necessary client identifying information, will be is taken to the Jamestown Hospital lab as soon as possible by a CVHD staff member.
8. Rapid strep test results will be faxed to CVHD from the Jamestown Hospital lab once the test has been completed. The office nurse is responsible for follow up of daily throat culture results.
 - a. Negative or Positive results the student/staff will be notified by phone. Messages may be left on answering machines if results are negative. **Every attempt will be made to reach parent/staff in person if the results are positive.** Results will also be documented on the school log and student's yellow card.
 - b. If unable to contact parent/staff of **positive** results by close of business (4:30 pm), the office nurse will send a note by mail to notify the parent/staff of the positive results.

