

TML/MSH Microbiology Department Policy & Procedure Manual	Policy # MI\STER\10\v02	Page 1 of 1
Section: Sterility Testing Manual	Subject Title: Spore Strip	
Issued by: LABORATORY MANAGER	Original Date: July 17, 2001	
Approved by: Laboratory Director	Revision Date: June 6, 2003	

SPORE STRIP

I. Introduction

A spore strip is used for monitoring steam sterilization (autoclave), chemical vapour sterilization (chemiclave) or radiation processes.

The spore strip is embedded with spores of *Bacillus stearothermophilus* (for autoclave), *Bacillus subtilis* (for chemiclave) or *Bacillus pumilus* (for radiation). The spore strip is put into the sterilizer along with the load of materials to be sterilized. The spore strip is then sent to the lab for testing after the sterilization process. A control strip (unsterilized) may be sent along for testing.

II. Procedure

1. With aseptic technique, transfer spore strip to a 1-mL Trypticase Soy Broth tube.
2. If a control strip is received, transfer the control strip to another 1-mL Trypticase Soy Broth tube.
3. Incubate the Trypticase Soy Broth as follows:
Check the sterilization method written on the specimen label or the requisition.

Sterilization Method	Incubation Temperature	Length of Incubation
Autoclave	56°C heating block	7 days
Statim autoclave	56°C heating block	7 days
Chemiclave	35°C incubator	7 days
Radiation (primarily from Bone Bank)	35°C incubator	7 days

4. Examine the TSB daily for 7 days.
 5. Confirm growth of Bacillus by performing a gram smear on turbid broths.
- Note:** Send broth to the Provincial Health Lab for identification if requested.

III. Reporting

All positive test results must be phoned to the ward / department.

Negative Report: "Test spores: No growth" or
"Test spores: No growth
Control spores: GROWTH"

Positive Report: "Test spores: GROWTH" or
"Test spores: GROWTH
Control spores: GROWTH / No growth"