***Bacillus anthracis***

**Gram stain:**

* Large Gram-positive rod (1-1.5 x 3-5μm)
* Central to subterminal spores
* Single, short chains, or long

chains **Colony morphology**:

* Grey, ground-glass appearance
* Irregular borders on Sheep Blood agar; “Medusa head”, “comet tail”, or “comma-shaped projections”
* Tenacious consistency; stands up when teased with

a loop

* Flat or slightly convex



* Non-hemolytic

**Growth:**

* Rapid on Sheep Blood

agar (growth 6-8h,

individual colonies 12-15h)

* No growth on MacConkey

agar **Motility:**

* Motility – Negative

**Refer Cultures to your LRN Reference Lab**

