*****Yersinia pestis ID Flowchart***

This job aid is a component of the free, on-demand CDC training course “Biochemicals and Gram Negative Organism ID.” Find the course at <https://www.cdc.gov/labtraining>.**aboratory**

\*= See Biochemical Tests for Gram Negative Organism ID Job aid for positive and negative result reference.

**Major Characteristics:**

Gram stain morphology: Gram-negative rods, 0.5 x 1-2 mm

Colony morphology: Slow growing, pinpoint colonies after 24h;

Colonies are 1-2mm, gray=white to slightly yellow and opaque on

BAP after 48 h; non-lactose fermenter on MAC/EMB; growing both

At 25-28 0C and at 35-37 0C.

Specimen: Blood, sputum, or lymph node aspirate.

WARNING:

Some of the automated identification systems do not identify Y.

Pestis adequately. Y. pestis has been falsely identified as Y.

Pseudotuberculosis, Shigella, H2S negative Salmonella, Acinetobacter

and Pseudomonas species.