

Yersinia pestis Characteristics Chart

Gram stain:

- Plump, Gram negative rods (1.0-2 μ m x 0.5 μ m)
- Variable bipolar staining seen with Giemsa or Wright stain
- Single cells or pairs and short chains

Colony morphology:

- Pinpoint, gray-white and translucent at 24h on BAP; 1-2 mm, gray-white to slightly yellow and opaque after 48h.
- May have a raised, irregular “fried egg” appearance after 48-72h. (This is not unique to *Y. pestis* but can be a useful characteristic, if observed.)

Growth:

- Grows at both 25-28 $^{\circ}$ C and 35-37 $^{\circ}$ C

Biochemicals:

- Oxidase, urease, and indole negative
- Catalase positive
- Non-lactose fermenter



**Refer Cultures to your LRN
Reference Lab**

