

Laboratory Medicine Care Division

Mycology

Environmental Fungal Investigation

Surveillance of hospital environments, homes, public buildings, for *Aspergillus* species and allergenic moulds: culture of air, dust and material samples.

General information

Turnaround time:

Initial results: 5-7 days, longer for some slow-growing moulds

Final report: 14 days, longer for some slow-growing moulds

Sample type/container:

Air samples, settled dust, surface samples, swabs, material samples; growth/cultures on transport medium also accepted

Laboratory Information

Biological interval/clinical decision values:

Number of colonies and genera/species are reported, with a description of the relevance of the fungal organism(s) detected. In air samples, the number and spectrum of genera/species of moulds detected are compared to those in outdoor air or other relevant control area.

Clinical Information

Surveillance during hospital construction, maintenance, demolition and renovation, water damage, faulty air filtration and conditioning, and outbreaks.

Windows and doors to the area being sampled should be kept closed for 12 hours prior to air sampling.

Post-remediation samples should be collected after all repair work has been completed, and final cleaning and thorough dust removal has been completed.

Minimum: one air sample and one dust sample each from patients' rooms and general hospital areas. More intensive sampling where a reservoir of *Aspergillus* is most likely to occur.

Sampling availability, processing of submitted samples, identification, and interpretation: please contact the laboratory for further information (mrcm@mft.nhs.uk or mft.mrcm@nhs.net).

(Last updated September 2026)