MDH Flow Chart for Rule-out and Referral of *Burkholderia mallei* & *Burkholderia pseudomallei*

Public Health Laboratory - Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit
601 Robert St. N. PO Box 64899, St. Paul, MN 55164

http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/phil/labep/index.html

**Colonies Morphology**
- Slow growing; poor growth at 24 hrs
- *B. pseudomallei*: White, colonies wrinkle with age. Musty odor, growth on MAC

**Gram Stain Morphology**
- *B. mallei*: Small gram-negative bacilli or coccobacilli
- *B. pseudomallei*: small straight or slightly curved gram-negative bacilli—May exhibit bipolar staining at 24 hrs.

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**Indole**
- Positive
- Negative
- Not *Burkholderia spp.*

**Catalase**
- Positive
- Negative
- Not *Burkholderia spp.*

**Oxidase**
- Positive: May be *B. pseudomallei* or *B. mallei*
- Negative: May be *B. mallei*
- Not *Burkholderia spp.*

**Motility**
- Positive: May be *B. pseudomallei*
- Negative: May be *B. Mallei*

**Cepacia Selective Agar OR Polymixin B or Colistin Disk**

**Growth or No Zone**
- No Growth or Zone
- Not *Burkholderia spp.*

**REFER ISOLATE:**
Cannot Rule Out *B. mallei* or *B. pseudomallei*

Call MDH-PHL at 612-282-3723 24/7