



Gram Negative Organism ID Glossary

Aerobic - a condition in which microorganisms grow with oxygen.

Anaerobic - a condition in which microorganisms grow without oxygen.

Bipolar Staining - looks like a closed safety pin; ends stain darker than the center.

BT (Bioterrorism) - the deliberate release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs (agents) used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants.

Biothreat Agents - agents used to cause illness or death in people, animals, or plants. Biothreat agents can be spread through the air, through water, or in food.

Enteric - relating to the normal microorganisms in the gastrointestinal tract.

Enteric Pathogens - microorganisms in the gastrointestinal tract that cause disease.

Facultative anaerobe - Grow equally well aerobically and anaerobically.

LRN (Laboratory Response Network) - The LRN is a national network of local, state, and federal public health, food testing, veterinary diagnostic, and environmental testing laboratories that provide the laboratory infrastructure and capacity to respond to biological and chemical terrorism, and other public health emergencies.

Normal Flora - microorganisms that normally live in various areas of the human body.

Select Agents - are a subset of biological agents that the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA) have determined to have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety, to animal or plant health, or to animal or plant products.

Spindle - a bacterial colony type resembling a rounded rod.

Swarming - a large number of animate or inanimate objects massed together and usually in motion. Colonies spread out from a central site and cover the agar plate.

Tier 1 Select Agent - a subset of select agents and toxins have been designated as Tier 1 because these biological agents and toxins present the greatest risk of deliberate misuse with significant potential for mass casualties or devastating effect to the economy, critical infrastructure, or public confidence, and pose a severe threat to public health and safety.

References:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Emergency Preparedness website: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/>
2. Forbes BA, SahmDF, and WeissfeldAS. Bailey and Scott's Diagnostic Microbiology, 10th ed. St. Louis, Missouri. Mosby Inc., 2011.
3. Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary, 10th ed. Springfield, Massachusetts, Merriam-Webster Inc. 1993
4. National Select Agent Registry website: <http://www.selectagents.gov/> VersalovicJ, Carroll KC, FunkeG, Jorgensen JH, Landry ML,

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>