



Culture Media Table

Introduction

Culture media is useful to isolate and identify microorganisms from various sites in the human body. This culture media table will help you learn about the various general media used in a public health or clinical microbiology laboratory. The table has basic culture media you will use as you process a specimen in the laboratory or work with an isolate sent to you from a clinical or reference laboratory.

Media	Enrichment	Selective	Differential	Enriched
Anaerobe Blood Agar (AnaBAP)			X	X
Blood Agar (BAP) also called Sheep's Blood Agar (SBA)			X	X
Campylobacter Agar (CAMPY)		X		
Chocolate Agar (CHOC)				X
CHROMAgar or Chromogenic Agar		X	X	
Columbia colistin-nalidixic acid (CNA)		X	X	
Gram Negative (GN) Broth/Selenite F (SF) Broth	X	X		
Hektoen enteric Agar (HEK, HE or HEA)		X	X	
MacConkey Agar (MAC)		X	X	
Mac-Sorbitol (Sorbitol-MAC) for E. coli O157 Agar (SMAC)		X	X	
Phenylethyl Alcohol Agar (PEA)		X		
Salmonella-Shigella Agar (SS)		X	X	
Thayer-Martin/Martin-Lewis Agar (TM/ML)		X		X
Thioglycollate Broth (THIO)	X			
Thiosulfate Citrate Bile Salts-Sucrose Agar (TCBS)		X	X	

This job aid is a component of the free, on-demand CDC training course "Basic Culture Media and Isolation Techniques: Microbiology Curriculum." Find the course at <https://reach.cdc.gov/training>.