

To: Medical Staff, House Staff, Patient Care Centers, and Outpatient Clinics

From Vera Tesic, MD, MS, D (ABMM) Medical Director, Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories
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Date: 3/12/2026

Subject: Microorganisms Identification Delays in Clinical Microbiology Laboratory

Effective Date: 3/12/2026

Laboratory Section: Microbiology and Immunology Laboratories

The Hyde Park Clinical Microbiology Laboratory is currently experiencing technical issues with its Vitek MS mass spectrometry instrument, which is used for the identification of bacteria, acid-fast bacteria, and fungi from culture.

During this downtime, the laboratory will transition to alternative identification methods, including biochemical testing and Gram staining. As a result, some organism identifications may be delayed by up to 24 hours.

We are actively working with the manufacturer's technical support team to resolve the issue. Replacement parts are expected to arrive later this afternoon or tomorrow.

Once we have the instrument back online, we will send another memo letting you know that we are back to normal operations.

Questions: With any questions, please contact:

- Karen Ironkwe Karen.Ironkwe@uchicagomedicine.org or
- Nedra Love Nedra.Love@uchicagomedicine.org