

Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC) Meeting Summary

March 10, 2026

I Welcome and Roll Call:

Cody Danielson called the meeting to order at 1:31pm Eastern on March 10, 2026, by teleconference. Attendance is recorded in Attachment A – there were 12 members present. Associates present: Debbie Bond, Tiffany Carey, Antoine Chamsi, Stacey Chmura, Kai Chung, Kristy Fournier, Shannon Freedman, Hannah Herrick, Morgan Lawrence, David Lo, Alma McCammond, Christabel Monteiro, Elisa Snyder, and Joshua Snyder. Paul Junio attended as Program Administrator.

II Approval of Agenda

Cody noted that the time for call-in information on the agenda was incorrect. With that comment, the agenda was approved by consent.

III Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from the 2/10/26 meeting were included with the meeting announcement. Following a motion by Robin and a second by Katie, all in attendance voted to approve.

IV Annex C

Cody opened the Microbiology and Radiochemistry Annex C listings (Radiochemistry provided to show what they arrived at). Elizabeth commented that we have no vendor courses listed, but that she didn't know of any appropriate ones. Cody mentioned that the TNI Training was 12-15 hours, but didn't include a laboratory session. Robin asked if this excludes anything, and how might we add a lab component? Elizabeth asked if Credentialling would take care of that. Debbie pointed out that you might have a class during the regular education component. Cody added that no TNI course includes a lab component. Elizabeth asked if we need to specify TNI Microbiology Course, and/or delete 'college-level' course. Cody suggested we delete college-level and mimic the Radiochemistry language. Cody will send the revision to Paul and Debbie. The language is as follows:

- One college-level or training course with a laboratory component that includes microbiology, however named. This course can be in-person, online or virtual reality. Examples include but are not limited to:
Training course examples:
 - o TNI online Microbiology courses (set of 5) with subsequent laboratory course
 - o TNI online Microbiology courses (set of 5) with 3 years of relevant laboratory experienceCollege-level course examples:
 - o General/Advanced/Introduction to Microbiology with laboratory
 - o Medical microbiology with laboratory
 - o Clinical microbiology with laboratory
 - o Research microbiology with laboratory

- o Cell biology with laboratory
- o Genetics with laboratory
- o Immunology with laboratory
- o Pathogenic microbiology with laboratory
- o Virology with laboratory
- o Environmental microbiology with laboratory
- o Food microbiology with laboratory
- o Mycology with laboratory

V Discussion on Section 8.2.3

Hunter commented that it should be the same sample as all other analysts. Cody said it need not be the same plate. Robin was opposed to establishing something based on the primary analyst. Paul suggested using language comparing the highest value to the lowest value. Liz commented that this had been left open intentionally so that the lab declares what their 10% comparison is ok. Elisa stated that they count all, average the counts, and then need to be within 10% of the average. Elizabeth didn't want it as specific as high or low – we say the laboratory must decide. Paul suggested that we point this 'change' out in the training that we offer.

Section 8.2.1.1 – bottles that didn't originate in the receiving laboratory

Cody asked if we could limit it be saying 'purchased by the laboratory'? Note that purchase could be interpreted broadly. Silky asked why this seems so over-thought. The laboratory is responsible if they provide the bottles, and could narrate if they didn't. Robin pointed out that this has been a finding that could be avoided. Cody will add 'purchased and provided by the laboratory' as follows: Sterility Checks – Each lot of media, materials and supplies purchased and provided by the laboratory must be checked to demonstrate the absence of organism(s)/analytes of interest.

Section 8.2.1.1 – COAs in lieu of sterility

Cody suggested 'an appropriately accredited vendor may be used'. Elisa asked if that would exclude metals. Silky asked what is 'appropriately accredited'? A suggestion was made to mimic the language for reference methods, so Paul offered 'generally recognized as competent to do so'. Cody wanted appropriate deleted. Liz said that if you purchased a sterile pipet, is it used in conjunction with a method blank? Cody said that the item would have to be used. She then asked if we should state 'as required'? Robin pointed out that a-d define things as 'as required'. Language agreed upon - Sterility checks meet the requirement to demonstrate the absence of organism(s)/analytes of interest. When materials and supplies have been purchased by the laboratory as sterilized from an accredited supplier (generally recognized as competent), and a method blank utilizing the item is run prior to or in conjunction with first use, a Certificate of Analysis may be used to satisfy the sterility check. Materials and supplies which have been sterilized in the laboratory must be tested to verify sterility once per batch or lot. The materials and supplies to be checked include, but are not limited to: media, filter funnels, sample containers, dilution water, buffers, and membrane filters.

8.2.1.2 – Performance checks and known cultures

Liz suggested 'each test reagent, except for non-selective media'. This was met with general consensus, but could result in some wording issues in the remainder of the section. Cody suggested flipping sections a and b to help with that. An issue was pointed out that positive and

negative requirements may be problematic. Robin will try to write language to address that. Paul suggested changing 'traceable source' to using the same language used when referencing cultures.

Having reached the end of the scheduled time, Cody will send out a poll looking for a possible additional meeting time. *[EDITOR'S NOTE: scheduling conflicts didn't allow for an additional meeting]* Cody will send today's work products out and will summarize the Response to Comment document. The meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM Eastern.

Attachment A - Participants**Microbiology Expert Committee (MEC)**

Name	Organization	Stakeholder	Email	Term Expires	Present
Nigel Allison (Vice Chair)	Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts	Lab	nallison@lacsdsd.org	2028*	X
Robin Cook	City of Daytona Beach	Lab	cookr@codb.us	2027	X
Cody Danielson (Chair)		Other	cody.danielson129@gmail.com	2028	X
Maria Fayard	ORELAP	AB	maria.j.fayard@oha.oregon.gov	2029	X
Maria Friedman	California ELAP	AB	qamfriedman@gmail.com	2028	X
Matt Graves	ERA	Other	matt_graves@waters.com	2028	X
Silky Labie	ELCAT	Other	elcatllc@centurylink.net	2029	X
Liz Lesold	NYSDOH ELAP	AB	elizabeth.lesold@health.ny.gov	2027*	X
Brian Mercer	Brian Mercer	Lab	bmercerc@plantation.org	2027*	X
Patsy Root	IDEXX Water	Other	patsy-root@idexx.com	2027*	
Robert Royce	New Jersey DEP	AB	Robert.Royce@dep.nj.gov	2028	
Tina Shidel	Pace Analytical Services - Ormond Beach	Lab	tina.buttermore@pacelabs.com	2027*	X
Katie Strothman	Sanders Lab	Lab	katie@sanderslabs.net	2029	X
Elizabeth Turner	Eurofins	Lab	elizabeth.turner@et.eurofinsus.com	2029	X
Paul Junio	The NELAC Institute	NA	paul.junio@nelac-institute.org		X

* - eligible to serve another term