Table 3I. Vancomycin Agar Screen for *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Enterococcus* spp.

Screen Test	Vancomycin MIC ≥ 8 µg/mL	
Test method	Agar dilution	Agar dilution
Organism group	*S. aureus*	*Enterococcus* spp.
Medium	BHI agar	BHI[a] agar
Antimicrobial concentration	6 µg/mL vancomycin	6 µg/mL vancomycin
Inoculum	Colony suspension to obtain 0.5 McFarland turbidity Preferably, using a micropipette, spot a 10-µL drop onto agar surface. Alternatively, using a swab dipped in the suspension and the excess liquid expressed, spot an area 10-15 mm in diameter or streak a portion of the plate.	1-10 µL of a 0.5 McFarland suspension spotted onto agar surface. Alternatively, using a swab dipped in the suspension and the excess liquid expressed, spot an area 10-15 mm in diameter or streak a portion of the plate.
Incubation conditions	35°C ± 2°C; ambient air	35°C ± 2°C; ambient air
Incubation length	24 h	24 h
Results	Examine carefully with transmitted light for > 1 colony or light film of growth. > 1 colony = presumptive reduced susceptibility to vancomycin	> 1 colony = presumptive vancomycin resistance
Additional testing and reporting	Perform a vancomycin MIC using a validated MIC method to determine vancomycin MICs on *S. aureus* that grow on BHI–vancomycin screening agar. Testing on BHI–vancomycin screening agar does not reliably detect all vancomycin-intermediate *S. aureus* strains. Some strains for which the vancomycin MICs are 4 µg/mL will fail to grow.	Perform vancomycin MIC on *Enterococcus* spp. that grow on BHI–vancomycin screening agar and test for motility and pigment production to distinguish species with acquired resistance (eg, *vanA* and *vanB*) from those with intrinsic, intermediate-level resistance to vancomycin (eg, *vanC*), such as *E. gallinarum* and *E. casseliflavus,* which often grow on the vancomycin screen plate. In contrast to other enterococci, *E. casseliflavus* and *E. gallinarum* with vancomycin MICs of 8-16 µg/mL (intermediate) differ from VRE for infection prevention purposes.
QC recommendations – routine[b]	*E. faecalis* ATCC®[c] 29212 – susceptible	*E. faecalis* ATCC® 29212 – susceptible
QC recommendations – lot/shipment[d]	*E. faecalis* ATCC® 51299 – resistant	*E. faecalis* ATCC® 51299 – resistant

Abbreviations: ATCC®, American Type Culture Collection; BHI, brain heart infusion; h, hour(s); IQCP, individualized quality control plan; MIC, minimal inhibitory concentration; QC, quality control; VRE, vancomycin-resistant enterococci.

Table 3I. (Continued)

Footnotes

a. Even though not as widely available, dextrose phosphate agar and broth have been shown in limited testing to perform comparably with BHI media.

b. QC recommendations – routine

Test negative (susceptible) QC strain:

- With each new lot/shipment of testing materials
- Daily if the test is performed less than once per week and/or an IQCP justifying less frequent QC has not been developed
- Less frequent than daily if the test is performed at least once per week and an IQCP has been developed

c. ATCC® is a registered trademark of the American Type Culture Collection.

d. QC recommendations – lot/shipment

Test positive (resistant) QC strain at minimum with each new lot/shipment of testing materials.