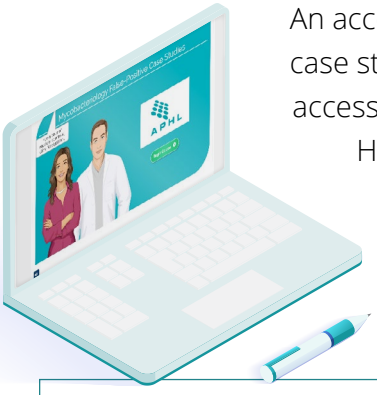
False-Positive Investigation Toolkit:

A Resource for Mycobacteriology Laboratories

False-positive *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex (MTBC) results can be difficult to identify, investigate, and resolve. False-positive results often have serious implications for patient isolation, patient therapy, contact investigations, and unnecessary laboratory testing.

The toolkit will help users:

- Define false-positive results for MTBC.
- Identify best practices to prevent false-positive results for MTBC.
- Recognize possible scenarios for identifying potential false-positive results.
- Describe the actions necessary to investigate potential false-positive results.
- Summarize how the TB laboratory and the TB Control Program should collaborate to investigate false-positive results.
- Describe the importance of developing both laboratory and TB Control Program guidance, policies, and educational materials to be referenced by staff when necessary.
- Identify follow-up actions if a determination of false-positive result is made.



An accompanying online interactive case study training module can be accessed on the Association of Public Health Laboratories website. The training module walks through different scenarios of a potential false-positive investigation.

CDC's False-Positive Investigation Toolkit was developed to provide mycobacteriology staff with updated resources to recognize potential false-positive results and to assist staff in false-positive investigations. TB Control Programs and healthcare providers may also find this information beneficial when investigating potential false-positive laboratory results.

The False-Positive Investigation Toolkit includes job-aids, posters, and templates that can be modified for local use.

Visit the False-Positive Investigation Toolkit website for more information.

FALSE-POSITIVE INVESTIGATION TOOLKIT