

Microbiology Collection Media and Specimen Transport

Specimen Type (by source or test)	Preferred Collection Media & Media Storage	Storage after Collection	Comments
ANAEROBIC, AEROBIC & ROUTINE CULTURES	BD ESwab: Nylon flocked swab (regular, minitip, flexible minitip) with 1 mL modified liquid Amies	Room temperature	Sustains viability of aerobic, anaerobic, and fastidious bacteria for up to 48 hrs. Anaerobic cultures must also have an aerobic culture ordered. ** Not for rapid antigen screens such as Rapid Strep.
	Blue top BBL CultureSwab Plus w/ Amies gel w/o charcoal	Room temperature	Maintains organism for 24-48 hrs. Good for most bacteria. ** Not for rapid antigen screens such as Rapid Strep.
BODY FLUIDS, WOUND ASPIRATES	Syringe specimen Sterile container without preservative	Room temperature	Transport to lab ASAP. Transport only after the <u>needle has been removed</u> . Transport with original Luer lock cap. (Contact laboratory to order extra caps.)
NASOPHARYNGEAL CULTURES	BD ESwab: Nylon flocked swab (regular, minitip, flexible minitip) with 1 mL modified liquid Amies	Room temperature	For <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> , the preferred method is PCR.
	Green top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge		
RAPID RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	Nasal washing / nasopharyngeal aspirate Flocked nasopharyngeal swab in M4/UTM (red lid w/ pink fluid)	Refrigerate	
THROAT SWABS - RAPID STREP GROUP A WITH OR WITHOUT REFLEX TO CULTURE	Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge Room temperature	Room temperature	Submit 2 swabs (comes w/ 2): one for the rapid test, one for back-up culture if necessary.
THROAT SWABS - STREP CULTURE (NOT FOR RAPID STREP TEST)	BD ESwab: Nylon flocked swab (regular, minitip, flexible minitip) with 1 mL modified liquid Amies	Room temperature	
PCR – <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> , <i>Chlamydia</i> , herpes, or other viruses	M4/UTM viral transport (red lid w/ pink fluid) Room temperature or refrigerate	Room temperature <i>Refrigeration is optional for PCR specimens.</i>	DO NOT use for Mycoplasma / Ureaplasma cultures.
VIRAL CULTURES	M4 or UTM viral transport Refrigerate	Refrigerate	Do not place CSF, body fluids or urine in M4/UTM . Use sterile container.
MYCOPLASMA/ UREAPLASMA CULTURES	M4 viral transport (blue lid with pink fluid) Refrigerate		
STERILE SPECIMEN Sputum & Tissue	Sterile containers Anaerobic transport media Room temperature	At lab within 4 hrs. if possible. Room temperature if received within 4 hrs. Refrigerate if over 4 hours.	Sputum and tissue specimens must be delivered to lab ASAP.

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PRENATAL STREP SCREEN	BD ESwab: Nylon flocked swab (regular, minitip, flexible minitip) with 1 mL modified liquid Amies	<i>Room temperature</i>	Note if patient has penicillin allergy.
STOOL CULTURES Not performed on formed stool.	Cary Blair (transport media) Clean, screw-capped container for unpreserved specimens.	<i>Transport media, room temperature.</i> <i>Unpreserved over 2 hours, place in transport media.</i>	Good for 24-48 hrs. Specimen must not be contaminated with urine or toilet water, or be from a diaper. Submit fresh (unpreserved) specimens to lab preferably within 2 hours of collection. Stool culture for enteric pathogens includes campylobacter, shigella, and salmonella testing unless otherwise indicated. Enterohemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) testing should be performed on bloody stools and must be ordered by a clinician.
OVA & PARASITE GIARDIA ANTIGEN TESTING	Total Fix Clean container	<i>Room temperature</i> <i>Refrigerate</i>	If no history of travel, immune status or risk factors is/are indicated, Giardia Antigen will be performed.
FECAL WBC, C. DIFFICILE or ROTAVIRUS Not performed on formed stool.	Clean screw-capped container	<i>Refrigerate up to 72 hrs.</i>	Submit fresh (unpreserved, room temperature) specimens to lab, preferably within 2 hours of collection.
URINE CULTURE	Gray top BD Urine Vacutainer/ Urine Preservative Formula Sterile screw-capped container	<i>Room temperature, 2 days.</i> <i>Refrigerate up to 72 hrs.</i>	Gray top <u>not</u> suitable for urinalysis. Must be filled to the fill line. Sterile screw-capped container may be used for routine urinalysis.
GENITAL WET PREPS	Minimal sterile saline <u>or</u> Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge	<i>Room temperature <4 hrs.</i>	For trichomonas or yeast, transport to lab ASAP.
FUNGAL CULTURES	Fluid or tissue in sterile container (<u>preferred</u> over swab) BD ESwab: Nylon flocked swab (regular, minitip, flexible minitip) with 1 mL modified liquid Amies	<i>Room Temperature or Refrigerate</i>	Blood and CSF specimens have special requirements; call laboratory for information.
ACID FAST BACILLUS (AFB) CULTURES	Fluid or tissue in sterile container (<u>preferred</u> over swab) BD ESwab: Nylon flocked swab (regular, minitip, flexible minitip) with 1 mL modified liquid Amies	<i>Room Temperature or Refrigerate</i>	Blood and CSF specimens have special requirements; call laboratory for information.

**If you have any questions about specimen collection,
storage or transport, please call the laboratory.**