# **Microbiology** Collection Containers

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| **SPECIMEN/TEST** | **COLLECTION CONTAINERS** | **TIME LIMITS FOR LAB DELIVERY** | **COLLECTION CONTAINER PICTURES** |
| **Blood Cultures**  Please include 1 aerobic and 1 anaerobic bottle in each set drawn. | Blood Culture bottles:  Adult / children over 12 yrs. old:  1 set = 1 Aerobic + 1 Anaerobic.  Optimum draw: 2 sets from 2 different sites, 10 ml in each bottle. At least 1 set drawn peripherally.  Pediatric Patients and/or Difficult Draws: 1 Pediatric bottle (1 to 4 ml) or 1 Aerobic bottle (>5 to 10 ml).  DO NOT OVERFILL BOTTLES | Lab prefers:  <= 24 hrs.  Can be accepted at Ambient incubation up to 5 days |  |
| **AFB Culture**  Note: swabs are not acceptable for AFB (TB) Culture | Tissue, fluid or (3ml minimum) respiratory secretions in sterile container  Aspirate with safety syringe tip cap | <= 1 hrs. Ambient  <= 24 hours refrigerated | 3. |
| **AFB Blood Culture** | SPS AFB Blood Culture Tube–  AFB Blood cultures are sent out and must be transported to reference lab within 72 hrs. of collection | <= 72 hrs. |  |
| **Routine Aerobic, Anaerobic, Fungus, and GC Cultures.** | 1. Tissue, fluid or respiratory secretions in sterile container 2. Aspirate with safety syringe tip cap | Sterile container or Aspirate in syringe:  <= 2 hrs. Ambient  <=24 hrs refrigerated | 2.  .  1.      3.  . |
| 1. ESwab Collection & Transport System with white cap & flocked swab & Amies liquid | ESwab: <= 24 hrs. Ambient |
| **Urine Culture** | 1. Fresh urine in sterile cup | <= 1 hr. Ambient  <= 24 hrs. Refrigerated | 1.  2.  . |
| 1. Grey top – BD Vacutainer Urine tube | <= 48 hrs. Ambient |
| **MRSA Culture** | E-Swab  (BBL Amies gel swab is acceptable but not preferred.) | <= 24 hrs. Ambient |  |
| **MRSA PCR**  (nose source only) | COPAN Sterile Transport Swab (red cap and red label, double-scored swabs with liquid Stuart’s medium in sponge). (DO NOT BREAK OFF SWAB AT THE SCORED AREA.) | <= 24 hrs. Ambient  <= 5 days Refrigerated |  |
| **Vaginosis Panel, BD Affirm** | BD Affirm Ambient Temperature Transport Medium | <= 72 hrs. Ambient or Refrigerated | #32 |
| **Gonorrhea/**  **Chlamydia/**  **Trichomonas**  **Amplification** | 1. GEN-PROBE APTIMA UNISEX SWAB (white cap with foil top) genital samples 2. Urine in Aptima collection tube   (First 15-30 mLs voided urine – 2 mLs minimum)   1. Hologic Aptima Vaginal Self-Collect Swab | < 30 Days Ambient or Refrigerated  1. | 1.    4.  .  3.  .  2. |
| 1. Urine in a sterile cup   (First 15-30 mLs voided urine – 2 mLs minimum) | <= 24 hrs. Refrigerated |
| **Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)**  **Varicella zoster virus (VZV)** | Swabs collected from cutaneous or mucocutaneous lesions placed in viral transport medium (UTM or M4RT) | <= 2 days Ambient  <= 7 days Refrigerated |  |
| **Pertussis PCR** | nasopharyngeal (NP) swab  in viral transport medium (UTM or M4RT) | <= 2 days Ambient  <= 4 days Refrigerated | [The influence of a swab type on the results of point-of-care tests | AMB  Express | Full Text](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https://amb-express.springeropen.com/articles/10.1186/s13568-020-00978-9&psig=AOvVaw0soqLcmVkuCgMWxpE3J3Jb&ust=1628978477728000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAcQjRxqFwoTCJDug42Ar_ICFQAAAAAdAAAAABAW) |
| **Respiratory PCR panel** | **nasopharyngeal (NP) swab only**  in virus stabilization tube or viral transport medium (UTM or M4RT) | <= 4 hrs. Ambient  <= 3 days Refrigerated | [Vacuette 456161 Virus Stabilization Tube - Henry Schein Medical](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https://www.henryschein.com/us-en/medical/p/laboratory/laboratory-supplies/vacuette3ml-virus-stabil-tube/1382122&psig=AOvVaw3UStnnixB_JCvWKDyqnLhL&ust=1628976403826000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=0CAcQjRxqFwoTCLjLu574rvICFQAAAAAdAAAAABAY) |
| **Flu RSV COVID PCR (FLUVID)** | nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or  nasal swab  in virus stabilization tube or viral transport medium (UTM or M4RT) | <= 8 hrs. Ambient  <= 7 days Refrigerated |
| **SARS CoV-2** |

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| **Strep Pharyngitis Screen Culture,**  **Strep Culture non-respiratory** (pediatric genital/perianal- group A) | ESwab Collection & Transport System or BBL Culture Swab Collection & Transport System | <=72 hrs. Ambient or Refrigerated |  |
| **Group A Strep PCR** | Throat swab using ESwab™ 480CFA or ESwab™ 480C collection device | <= 48 hrs. Ambient  <= 6 days Refrigerated | Copan Diagnostics COLLECTION, TRANS ESWAB AMIES ELUTION LIQ (50/BX 10BX/CS) - 480CFA |
| **Group B Strep PCR** (perinatal strep) | ESwab Collection & Transport System with white cap & flocked Swab & Amies liquid  (BBL Amies gel swab is acceptable but not preferred.) | ESwab:  <= 24 hrs. Ambient  <= 5 days Refrigerated |  |
| **Pinworm Prep** | Pinworm Collector with white cap vial & sticky paddle  Include patient collection instructions with each vial. | <= 72 hrs. Ambient |  |
| **Parasite Worm Exam** | 1. Isolate worm and place into a sterile cup with a small amount of water. | Return to Laboratory within 8 hours Ambient or Refrigerated | 2  .  1. |
| 1. Place worm in a pink cap vial (formalin). Remove scoop from cap and discard | Specimen is viable Ambient or Refrigerated for 2 months or until vial expiration date, whichever comes first. |
| **Fecal Occult Blood**  *(Diagnostic or 3 card series)* | Fresh stool applied to test card immediately after collection  Stool must be applied to card within 30 minutes. Follow instructions provided with cards. | <=30 minutes fresh stool  Card - 14 days Ambient |  |
| **GI PCR with Supplemental Culture**  **Stool Culture** includes: Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, E. coli 0157, and ShigaToxins*. Indicate any other organisms in comments*. | Orange cap Cardinal C&S vial  Sterile containers can be used for collection if the specimen can be brought to a lab and transferred in less than 2 hours | <= 24 hrs. Ambient;  <= 48 hrs. Refrigerated | cid:image001.png@01D4B88A.D24B12C0  Within 2 hrs of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line. |
| **Ova & Parasites** | Pink cap (Formalin) *AND* Grey cap (Zinc PVA) Para-Pak transport vials. Transfer to vials within 30 minutes. | Specimen is viable Ambient or Refrigerated for 2 months or until vial expiration date, whichever comes first. | Within 30 min of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line. |
| **Giardia/ Cryptosporidium Antigen** | 1. Pink cap (formalin) *OR* | Pink cap (formalin) specimen is viable Ambient for 2 months or until the vial’s expiration, whichever comes first.  1. | cid:image001.png@01D4B88A.D24B12C0  2.  .  Within 30 min of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line. |
| Orange cap Cardinal C&S vial | Orange Cap (Cary Blair) <= 2 weeks Refrigerated |
| **WBC Stool** | Orange cap Cardinal C&S vial | <= 24 hrs. Ambient;  <= 48 hrs. Refrigerated | cid:image001.png@01D4B88A.D24B12C0  Within 60 min of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line. |
| **Stool for C. diff PCR,** | Fresh stool in sterile cup | Refrigerate within 2 hrs.  <= 4 days  Refrigerated or Frozen  \*Transport on ice\* |  |
| **Norovirus PCR** | Fresh stool in sterile cup | <=48 hrs. Refrigerated  \*Transport on ice\* |
| **Rotavirus Antigen** | Fresh stool in sterile cup | <= 72 hrs. Refrigerated  \*Transport on ice\* |

**08/13/2021**