

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	Blue top BBL CultureSwab Plus w/ Amies gel w/o charcoal Room temperature	<i>Room temperature</i>	Maintains organism for 24-48 hrs. Good for most bacteria. Anaerobic cultures must also have an aerobic culture ordered. ** Not for rapid antigen screens such as Rapid Strep.
BODY FLUIDS, WOUND ASPIRATES	Syringe specimen Sterile container without preservative	<i>Room temperature</i>	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	Green top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge Room temperature	<i>Room temperature</i>	For <i>Bordetella pertussis</i> , the preferred method is PCR.
RAPID RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)	Nasal washing / nasopharyngeal aspirate Flocked nasopharyngeal swab in M4/UTM (red lid w/ pink fluid)	<i>Refrigerate</i>	
THROAT SWABS - RAPID STREP GROUP A	Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge Room temperature	<i>Room temperature</i>	Submit 2 swabs (comes w/ 2): one for the rapid test, one for back-up culture if necessary.
THROAT SWABS - STREP CULTURE	Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge or Blue top BBL CultureSwab Plus w/ Amies gel w/o charcoal	<i>Room temperature</i>	
PCR – N. gonorrhoeae, Chlamydia, herpes, or other viruses	M4/UTM viral transport (red lid w/ pink fluid) Room temperature or refrigerate	<i>Room temperature</i> <i>Refrigeration is optional for PCR specimens.</i>	DO NOT use for Mycoplasma / Ureaplasma cultures.
VIRAL CULTURES	M4 or UTM viral transport Refrigerate	<i>Refrigerate</i>	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	<i>At lab within 4 hrs if possible.</i> <i>Room temperature if received within 4 hrs.</i> <i>Refrigerate if over 4 hours.</i>	Sputum and tissue specimens must be delivered to lab ASAP.
PRENATAL STREP SCREEN	Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge or Blue top BBL CultureSwab Plus w/ Amies gel w/o charcoal Room temperature	<i>Room temperature</i>	Note if patient has penicillin allergy.

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STOOL CULTURES <u>Not</u> performed on formed stool.	ETM (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	Protifix-CLR 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 <u>Not</u> 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) Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge <u>or</u> Blue top BBL CultureSwab Plus w/ Amies gel w/o charcoal <u>or</u> Green top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge	<i>Refrigerate</i> <i>Room temperature</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) Red top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge <u>or</u> Blue top BBL CultureSwab Plus w/ Amies gel w/o charcoal <u>or</u> Green top BBL CultureSwab with liquid Stuart sponge	<i>Refrigerate</i> <i>Room temperature</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.