

Microbiology/Molecular Microbiology Specimen Collection and Transport Guide



Sterile Urine Cup



Urine Culture Tube



Urinalysis Tube



Additive-Free Urine Tube (Supplied separately)
***S. pneumoniae and Legionella antigen

Follow package instructions for use

Routine Blood Culture

Use a *BacTAlert* Blood Culture Collection Kit for culture of blood for bacteria and yeast. *Transport bottles at room temperature after collection.*

Adults (2-bottle set: one purple and one blue top): Collect blood using sterile venipuncture. Inoculate 8-10 mL into the BacT/Alert® Aerobic bottle, and then inoculate 8-10 mL into the BacT/Alert® Anaerobic bottle. If collection volume is not sufficient to inoculate both bottles (8-10 mL each), inoculate Aerobic bottle only. Anaerobic bottle will need to be collected at next blood draw, if possible.

Minimum volume for Blood Culture is 2mL, inoculate Aerobic bottle only.

Children (1 blue top bottle): Collect blood using routine venipuncture. Inoculate 5 mL (or as much as possible) into BacT/Alert® Aerobic bottle.



Ova & Parasites (O&P) Transport

The yellow top (formalin) Para-Pak® or Green AlcorFix vial is used for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasite examination, *Giardia lamblia* Antigen and *Cryptosporidium* Antigen. Place stool into vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Transport at room temp after



Stool Culture Transport

The orange top Para-Pak vial containing Cary Blair transport medium is designed to maintain the viability of enteric pathogens during transport to the laboratory. Place stool into vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Transport at room temperature after collection.

Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and/or Trichomonas: TMA Collection kits

Urine (Yellow Label): DO NOT clean area before collection: FIRST STREAM of URINE ONLY. Patient should not have urinated within the previous hour prior to collection. Collect minimum 2mL up to 30mL in a sterile cup. Pipette specimen into Yellow Aptima Collection container until the volume is between two black lines.

Unisex Genital for Male Urethral and Female Endocervical (White tube):

Use white cleaning swab to remove mucus from females and discard. Collect Male or Female with Blue Swab. Break blue swab off into collection tube. DO NOT PUT THE WHITE SWAB INTO THE COLLECTION TUBE.

Urethral: Roll swab just at tip or outside opening to penis through which urine passes.

Be sure to roll swab completely around opening. It is not necessary to put swab deep inside opening of penis.

Multi-test Swab (Orange Label) for Vaginal, Rectal, Throat sources:

Vaginal: Insert the swab into vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) past introitus and gently rotate swab for 10-30 seconds. Make sure swab touches the walls of vagina so that moisture is absorbed by swab and then withdraw swab without touching the skin

Rectal: Insert swab into rectum about 1-2 inches (3-5 cm) past the anal margin (the outside of the anus) and gently rotate the swab for 5-10 seconds. Withdraw the swab without touching the skin.

Throat: Insert swab into mouth ensuring contact with bilateral tonsils (the tonsils on both sides of mouth, unless tonsils have been removed) and the back of throat, then withdraw swab without touching the inside of cheeks or tongue.

***** Transport all specimen types refrigerated or at room temperature.



Molecular Vaginitis Panel Collection kit (Candida, Trichomonas, Bacterial Vaginosis)

Multi-test Swab transport at room temp



Eswab (white) and Eswab Mini (Blue) Collection/Transport Tube

The ESwab transport is a single collection swab used for **bacterial cultures**, including **aerobes and anaerobes**, **fungus culture** swab collections, **Inpatient and Emergency Room STREP A RAPID PCR**, and **Strep B DNA**.

The mini-tip ESwab (Blue top) is used for ***Bordetella pertussis* PCR** and for narrow passages like Nasopharyngeal and urethral bacterial cultures.

Send ASAP to laboratory; Specimens are stable for up to 48 hours at room temperature. Exception: cultures for *Neisseria gonorrhea* are stable for 24 hours only at room temperature.



Transport: Liquid Amies-D: Outpatient and Outreach Strep A DNA and also for Strep B DNA.

Transport at room temp. after collection



UVT, UTM, VTM Viral and Culture Media: Flu A/B, RSV, CoVID, HSV PCR, Viral Culture, Chlamydia culture

UVT, UTM, and/or VTM is used for collection of lesions for HSV PCR, NP collection for Flu A/B, RSV, Covid, RSV, Viral culture, and Chlamydia Culture. Collect specimen using appropriate sampling swab, breaking off shaft in tube. UVT, UTM, VTM is stored at room temperature prior to sample collection. *Transport immediately after collection. Refrigerate and transport refrigerated if transport is delayed.*



Pinworm Paddle Collection for Pinworm

Transport at room temperature.



Fungal Blood/AFB Blood SPS Tube Blood is collected using blood culture site prep and venipuncture. Call Microbiology for the special collection tubes. Tube must be filled at least half full, Transport ASAP to laboratory at room temperature.



Clean or Sterile Container Collections

Sterile Container

AFB Culture	AFB and Modified AFB (PAF) stain
Wound Culture	Catheter Tip Culture
Body Fluid Culture	Lower Respiratory Culture
Gram stain with Slide	Tissue

Clean Container

Fecal WBC/Leukocyte	C diff Toxin DNA
Parasite/Arthropod	KOH Prep Rotavirus
Hair, Nail, Other Fungal Scrapings	

