












Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

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Culture Type	Container	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Acid Fast Culture (Mycobacteria, Tuberculosis, or TB)	Sterile Container 	Sputum: First morning specimen preferred. Blood: Sodium heparin or Lithium heparin acceptable. Do not centrifuge.	Transport: 2-30°C Stability: 24 hours at RT 7 days at 2-8°C or Frozen	Swabs are not appropriate specimens for AFB culture. Add NSWAB comment for swabs submitted
Aerobic Culture (Routine Bacterial Culture)	Culture Swab  Copan E Swab  Sterile Container 	Used for bacterial cultures. The following sources are accepted, but not limited to: Abscesses/Wound Arm Ear Eye Foot Surgical Specimens Throat Vaginal	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 2 days at 2-8°C	Tissue and fluid specimens preferred when possible. Material selected for culture must be from the actual site of infection, collected with a minimum of contamination from adjacent tissues, organs, or secretions.
Anaerobic Culture	BBL Vacutainer Anaerobic Specimen Collector  Copan E Swab  Sterile Container 	The following sources are accepted, but not limited to: Abscesses Fluids Surgical Specimens Wound	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 12 hours at Room Temp 12-48 hours at 2-8°C.	Tissue and Fluid is preferred over swab specimens to enhance the recovery of anaerobes. Anaerobic cultures are <u>not</u> performed on: catheter tips, mouth, vaginal, urine, sputum or CSF.





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Arthropod Identification	Sterile or Clean Container 	Submit entire Arthropod for identification. Arthropods with missing pieces may not be identifiable.	Transport: Room Temp	Ticks, Fleas, Bedbugs, Lice
		Scabies: Submit Skin scrapings in a sterile container or between two slides that are secured with tape or rubber bands		Scabies
Blood Culture Or Blood Culture, Fungus	1 SET of Blood Culture Bottles 	See Blood Culture collection procedure. Two (2) collections are a typical order in a 24 hour period.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours at Room Temp	Send to Microbiology as soon as possible after collection. Do not refrigerate.
Blood Culture Pediatric Patient	1 Pediatric Blood Culture Bottle 	See Blood Culture collection procedure. Two (2) collections are a typical order in a 24 hour period unless on pediatric patients.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours at Room Temp	Send to Microbiology as soon as possible after collection. Do not refrigerate.
BAL or Bronchial Washing	Sterile Container 	Please write "Pnuemocysits suspected" on specimen or on ord <u>needed.</u>	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 2 hours at Room Temp 24 hours at 2-8°C	Do NOT send through the pneumatic tube system.





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Cerebral Spinal Fluid Culture	<p style="text-align: center;">CSF Collection Kit</p> 	<p>Collect CSF in collection kit and transport to laboratory immediately.</p> <p>Tubes are pre-labeled 1 - 4. Always collect tubes in order.</p>	<p>Do NOT send through the pneumatic tube system.</p> <p>Transport: Room Temp Stability: Deliver to Lab IMMEDIATELY</p>	<p>Do not refrigerate.</p>
Chlamydia, Trichomonas and/or GC	<p>Urine: Sterile Container or cobas PCR Urine Sample Packet</p>  <p>Swab: cobas PCR Media Uni/Dual Swab Packet</p>  <p>Thin Prep Pap Specimen</p> 	<p><u>Urine:</u> Do not cleanse or urinate for 1 hour prior to collection. Collect first 10-50 mL of urine. Transfer urine into labeled cobas packet using the provided pipette.</p> <p><u>Swabs:</u> Use swab giving in packet (dual packet has a cleaning swab), collected sample and break off swab in labeled tube.</p> <p><u>Thin Prep:</u> Use Thin Prep Pap Test collection kit to collect pap smear specimen as normal. Submit labeled specimen to the lab. Lab aliquot 1 mL of the pap into the cobas tube.</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp</p> <p>Stability: <u>Urine</u> -Sterile Container: 24 hours. -Urine packet tube: 2-30°C for 12 months.</p> <p><u>Swab</u> -Swab packet tube: 2-30°C for 12 months.</p> <p><u>Pap Specimen</u> PreservCyt vial – 30 days</p>	<p>Repeat testing for cure is not recommended.</p> <p>Sources for swabs include: Endocervical, vaginal, anorectal, meatal, and oropharyngeal.</p>








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<p>Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile toxin (C. Diff)</p>	<p>Sterile Container </p> <p style="text-align: center;">Or</p> <p>Empty Stool Vial </p>	<p>Stool collected in sterile container and sent to lab ASAP.</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp</p> <p>Stability: < 24 hours Room Temp 24-72 hours at 2-8°C >72 hours frozen.</p>	<p>Formed stools are not acceptable.</p> <p>Bristol Stool Chart will be utilized to determine acceptability.</p>
<p>Covid-19</p>	<p>Abbott ID Now Direct Swab </p>	<p>Collect NP swab using swab provided. Place swab in empty vial. Break swab off to fit in the vial with the cap on. Replace cap tightly on transport system.</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp</p> <p>Stability: Direct NP Swab Room Temperature: 1 Hour</p>	<p>Typically used for Urgent Presurgical specimens.</p>
	<p>Universal Transport Media (UTM) </p>	<p>Collect NP swab using swab provided. Place swab in transport media. Break swab off to fit in the vial with the cap on. Replace cap tightly on transport system.</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp</p> <p>Stability: <u>Specimens for Cepheid:</u> 24 hours at Room Temp 7 days at 2-8°C <u>Specimens for Roche:</u> 2-25 °C for up to 48 hours</p>	<p>Typically used for Symptomatic patients.</p>

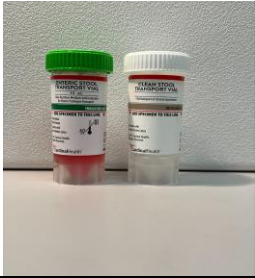



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Cystic Fibrosis Culture	 Sterile container  Culture Swab 	Acceptable specimens: sputum, bronchial lavages, throat, tracheal and sinus aspirates obtained from cystic fibrosis patients.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 2 hours at room temp 12 hours at 2-8°C	Cultures will be examined for organisms specific to infections in cystic fibrosis patients.
Dialysis Fluid	Sterile Container 	Centrifuge prior to culture set up.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours at 2-8°C	
Fungal Culture or Fungal Smear	Sterile Container for most specimens.  Swab acceptable for throat and vaginal specimens.  	Hair: Collect at least 10-12 affected hairs with bases of shafts intact. Nail: Wipe nail with 70% alcohol. Clip away generous portion of affected area and collect material or debris from under nail. Skin: Clean affected area with 70% alcohol. Gently scrape surface of skin at active margin of lesion. Place skin scrapings (enough to cover head of thumbtack) into a sterile container. Tissue or Fluid: Submit in Sterile Container	Transport: Room Temp Stability: <u>Hair and Nails:</u> 24 hours at Room Temp <u>Skin:</u> 72 hours at Room Temp <u>Tissue and Fluids:</u> 24 hours at 2-8°C	Please note on specimen or requisition when Pneumocystis is suspected. Add NSWAB comment for swabs submitted





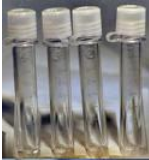
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Gastrointestinal PCR Panel, Stool	Cary Blair Enteric Pathogen Vial And Empty Stool vial 	Raw Stool must be submitted to release C. diff results.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: Raw stool must be added to Cary Blair media within 2 hours of collection. Stool in Cary Blair is good for 4 days at 2-30°C	Replaces Stool culture, Ova and parasite Screen, C. difficile, Rotavirus, Yersinia culture.
Group B Strep PCR AKA: Group B Strep Culture Group B Strep Screen	Culture Swab or Todd Hewitt Broth (both shown) 	Per CDC recommendations, prenatal screening for vaginal and rectal Group B Streptococcal colonization should be done on all pregnant women at 35 – 37 weeks' gestation.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: Red Top Swab: 24 hours at room temp 6 days at 2 - 8°C Todd Hewitt Broth: 24 hours at Room Temp	If susceptibility testing is indicated for penicillin allergic women please indicate on the test request.
Herpes, VZ and non-respiratory Cultures	Universal Transport Media (UTM) M4 or M5 Transport Media 	Collect specimen using supplied swab. Swabs with wood handle are not acceptable. (Wood is toxic to viruses and results may be invalid.)	Transport: Refrigerate. Stability: 7 days at 2-8°C	CSF Specimens: Use CSF collection kit. Testing is performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
H pylori antigen, Stool	Clean or Sterile Container 	Cannot be performed on specimens in preservatives.	Transport: Refrigerate. Stability: 72 hours at 2-8°C	Antimicrobials, protein pump inhibitors, and bismuth solutions taken within 2 weeks of testing can cause false negatives.








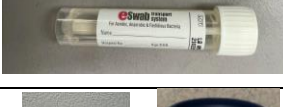



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Influenza A/B PCR	Direct Swab 	Collect NP swab using swab provided. Place swab in vial. Break swab off to fit in the vial with the cap on. Replace cap tightly on transport system.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: <u>Specimens for Abbott ID:</u> Direct NP Swab Room Temperature: 2 Hours 2-8°C – 24 hours NP Swab in Transport Media Room Temperature: 8 Hours 2-8°C – 72 hours	
	Universal Transport Media (UTM)  		Transport: Room Temp Stability: <u>Specimens for Cepheid:</u> 24 hours at Room Temp 7 days at 2-8°C <u>Specimens for Roche:</u> 2-25 °C for up to 48 hours >48 hours' freeze at -20°C	
Legionella Urine Antigen	Sterile Container 	Submit at least 1ml of urine in sterile cup.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours at Room Temp 14 days at 2-8°C. 30 days at <20°C.	
Meningitis Panel, CSF	CSF Collection Kit 	CSF specimens should be collected via lumbar puncture and should not be centrifuged. This test is not intended for testing of specimens collected from indwelling CNS medical devices.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours Room Temp 7 days at 2-8°C	Test should only be run once every 7 days. This test will only be performed when the Cell count is >5 WBC's This test is not performed on CSF from Shunts.





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Culture Type	Container	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Mycoplasma genitalium PCR	Culture swab E swab VTM M4-RT    	Refer to Mayo Medical Lab website for acceptable sources: Mayo Medical Laboratories Mycoplasma genitalium PCR	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at 2-8°C or Frozen	Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Mycoplasma pneumoniae PCR	Culture swab E swab VTM M4-RT    	Refer to Mayo Medical Lab website for acceptable sources: Mayo Medical Laboratories Mycoplasma pneumoniae PCR	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at 2-8°C or Frozen	Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Occult Blood	Sterile Container   Fecal Occult Blood cards 	Submit at least 5ml of stool in sterile container.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 14 days at Room Temperature.	Do not refrigerate.






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Ova and Parasite	Ova & Parasite Collection Kit or Sterile Container 	Submit 5 mL of stool Refer to Mayo Medical Laboratories for Stool testing algorithms: Mayo Medical Laboratories Parasite Testing Algorithm	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 21 days at Room Temp or 2-8°C	Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Pertussis PCR AKA Bordetella pertussis Whooping Cough	Bordetella pertussis (Whooping cough) Collection Kit  Collection devices obtained from Mayo	Collect nasopharyngeal (NP) swab. Place the swab into the transport media.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at Room Temp 2-8°C, or Frozen	Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Pinworm Prep	Pinworm Collection Paddle 	Collect by pressing sticky side of paddle to perianal area. Collect in the early morning, prior to bathing or using the toilet.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at Room Temp or 2-8°C	Tape prep acceptable, but not preferred. If performing tape prep, ensure the tape is clear tape.
Pneumocystis Stain	Sterile Container 	BAL specimen preferred. Write " Pneumocystis " on specimen. <u>This is a special request.</u>	Room Temperature. Transport to Lab ASAP. Stability: <8 hours.	Order Fungal Stain and write " Look for pneumocystis " on requisition or comment in electronic order.






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RSV PCR	Direct Swab 	Collect NP swab using swab provided. Place swab in vial. Break swab off to fit in the vial with the cap on. Replace cap tightly on transport system.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: <u>Specimens for Abbott ID:</u> Direct NP Swab 2 hours at Room Temp 24 hours at 2-8°C NP Swab in Transport Media 8 hours at Room Temp 72 hours at 2-8°C	
	Universal Transport Media (UTM)  		Transport: Room Temp Stability: <u>Specimens for Cepheid:</u> 24 hours at Room Temp 7 days at 2-8°C	Acceptable transport medias: Viral Transport Media, Universal Transport Media, E swab.
Respiratory Panel PCR Film Array	Viral Transport Media or Universal Transport Media.  	Nasopharyngeal swab	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 4 hours at Room Temp 3 days at 2-8°C. 30 days at -20°C.	

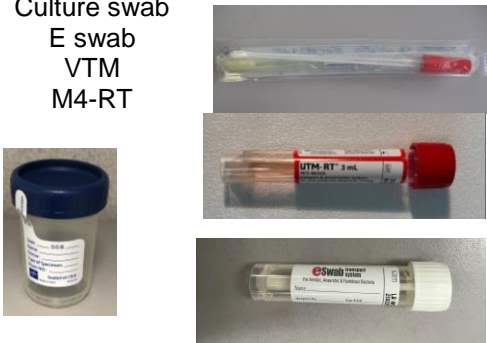


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Staph aureus presurgical screen PCR, MRSA Screen PCR	CultureSwab 	Nasal collection only	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours	MRSA PCR test results on inpatients are available within 3 hours. SA PCR tests are for presurgical screens on nares specimens only.
Sputum Culture	Sterile Container 	1 st morning collection is preferred.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 2 hours at Room Temp or 2-8°C	All sputum specimens are screened microscopically for acceptability.
Strep pneumoniae Urine Antigen	Sterile Container 	Submit at least 1ml of urine in sterile cup.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 24 hours at Room Temperature. 14 days at 2-8°C. 30 days at -20°C.	
Culture Type	Container	Collection (Specimen Source Required on all tests)	Storage & Transport Temperature	Comments
Group A Strep Screen Throat, PCR AKA Throat Culture Group A Strep Culture Strep Screen Culture	CultureSwab  E swab 	Fresh swab of each tonsillar fossa, and the posterior pharynx, including any visible exudate from these areas. The swab should be obtained with some form of tongue depression to avoid lingual contamination.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 72 hours.	A well-collected specimen may elicit a gag reflex and be unpleasant to the patient.

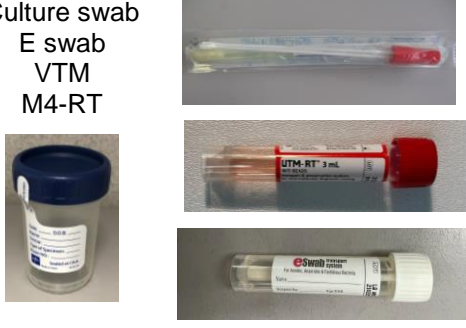



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<p>Ureaplasma PCR</p>	<p>Culture swab E swab VTM M4-RT</p> 	<p>Refer to Mayo Medical Laboratories for acceptable specimen types: Mayo Medical Laboratories Ureaplasma PCR</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at 2-8°C or Frozen</p>	<p>Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories</p>
<p>Urine Culture</p>	<p>Sterile Container BD Vacutainer Urine Tube</p> 	<p>Sterile Container: Submit > 5 mL from a midstream, "clean-catch," random urine collection. BD Vacutainer Tube: 4mL of urine from Sterile container added to the tube</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp Stability: Sterile Container: 2 hours at Room Temp 24 hours at 2-8°C. BD Tube: 48 hours at 2-8°C</p>	
<p>Vaginitis Microbial Identification</p>	<p>BD Affirm VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System (ATTS)</p> 	<p>Vaginal Collection.</p>	<p>Transport: Room Temp Stability: 72 hours 2-30°C.</p>	<p>Tests for: Candida sp., Gardnerella sp., and Trichomonas vaginalis.</p>

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Varicella Zoster PCR	Culture swab E swab VTM M4-RT 	Refer to Mayo Medical Lab website for acceptable sources: Mayo Medical Laboratories Varicella Zoster PCR	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at 2-8°C or Frozen	Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories
Viral Culture – Virus name must be noted on specimen	Culture swab E swab VTM M4-RT 	Refer to Mayo Medical Lab website for acceptable sources and test orders: Mayo Medical Laboratories Viral Culture Non Respiratory	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 7 days at 2-8°C	Specimens submitted for “viral culture” are not appropriate from most sources. Some test requests will be changed to appropriate PCR testing. Testing performed at Mayo Medical Laboratories.
Fecal Lactoferrin Leukocytes (WBCs)	Sterile or clean Container 	Stool collected in sterile container.	Transport: Room Temp Stability: 2 weeks at 2 -30°C.	
Worm Identification	Sterile or Clean Container 	Submit entire Worm for identification. Worms with missing pieces may not be identifiable.	Transport: Room Temp	