Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

General Guidelines for Specimen Collection and Transport

• Specimens should be collected in appropriate transport systems and transported as quickly as possible.

• This guide is not all inclusive. The items pictured are only the most common. Other devices may be required.

• Please refer to the chart on the back page for maximum storage and transport times.

• Specimens should not be stored through a weekend or holiday. Please transport specimens to the nearest laboratory or open outpatient laboratory collection center.

• Please request containers for unique organisms in advance when possible.

• Contact information:
  Chambersburg Hospital Lab: 717-217-4298
  Ephrata Community Hospital Lab: 717-738-6415
  Gettysburg Hospital Lab Office: 717-337-4120
  Good Samaritan Hospital Lab Office: 717-270-7551
  Waynesboro Hospital Lab: 717-765-3403
  York Hospital Microbiology Lab: 717-851-2583

WellSpan Laboratory Services website: www.wellspanlabs.org
### Throat - Group A Strep DNA
**LAB 9722**
- Blue swab for rapid antigen test
- White eSwab and tube for DNA test
- Copan dual swab (58087)

### GC Culture Swabs
**LAB 235**
- Male (76808)
- Female (76809)

### Aerobic Culture
**Wounds, abscesses, yeast screens**
(Tissues or aspirates are preferred.)
**NOT** for GC or Chlamydia
- Aerobic swab (11041)
- BD ESwab (79477)
- **Aerobic cultures**
  - SA PCR
  - MRSA PCR
- Aerobic & anaerobic cultures and throat Strep A DNA

### BD Universal Viral Transport
**Flocked Flexible Minitip: (79683)**
For collection of respiratory viruses (influenza, RSV, respiratory panel, etc.). Also acceptable for Bordetella and Legionella molecular amplification.

**Standard Swab: (79086)**
For Transport of specimens for viral testing such as Herpes simplex, Varicella zoster, CMV, etc.

Insert swab into container, snap off where scored and recap.

### BD Flocked ESwab
- For nasopharyngeal collection of Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis and Legionella, and Mycoplasma pneumonia molecular amplifications.
  - (79374)
  - Insert swab into container, snap off where scored and recap.

### BuRine Culture
**LAB 239**
- Submit BD Vacutainer for all urine cultures.
  - (11229)
- Sharps hazard

### Sterile Cup
Use for sputum collection and other aerobic culture specimens. Use to collect urine, then transfer to BD vacutainer gray top tube.
  - (11225)

### Anaerobic Transport Media
- Use 1 tube per body site. Insert swab into gel or lay tissue or fluid on top of gel. Synthetic swabs must be used.
  - (11231)
- (50764)
**Specimen Collection Devices**

**Aptima Multitest Swab**
*Female: Vagina, Throat, Rectum*
*Male: Throat, Rectum (Throat, Rectum - for GC/CT only)*

LAB 10048
- Neisseria gonorrhoea (GC)
- Chlamydia trachomatis (CT)

LAB 16787
- Mycoplasma genitalium

LAB 9703
- Bacterial vaginosis
- Candida sp.
- Candida glabrata
- Trichomonas vaginalis

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**Urine Cup**
*Male and female urine – first stream sample*

LAB 10048
- Neisseria gonorrhoea
- Chlamydia trachomatis

LAB 16787
- Mycoplasma genitalium

LAB 10043
- Trichomonas vaginalis

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**ThinPrep Vial**
*Female: Cervix, Vagina, Anus*
*Male: Anus*

LAB 4
- Cytology (Pap)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- Neisseria gonorrhoea
- Chlamydia trachomatis
- Trichomonas vaginalis

LAB 13 (use for Anal source)
- Non-GYN Cytology

LAB 263 (use for Pap add-on and anal source)
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

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**Total-Fix – Stool Parasites**
For preservation and transport of stool specimens for Ova and Parasite testing including Routine O&P (LAB 955), Giardia and Cryptosporidium (LAB 259) antigens and stains for Microsporidium (LAB 9725), Cyclospora and Isospora (LAB 9718)

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**Para-Pak C&S**
LAB 223
For preservation and transport of stool specimens for culture.
(04328)

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**Stool Collection Container**
Fits onto toilet for easy fresh stool specimen collection.
Use for C. difficile (LAB 253), H. pylori (LAB 397) and rotavirus (LAB 443).
(11232)

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Please always send extra stool when available.
# Maximum Specimen Transport Times and Storage Conditions

(Contact the lab if times or conditions are not met.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specimen</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Maximum Time</th>
<th>Condition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acid Fast Culture</td>
<td>Blood – Isolator tube, ≥6ml Sterile swab Sterile tissue, Body fluid Sputum/ Bronch</td>
<td>16 hours 72 hours 72 hours 72 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature Refrigerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerobic Bacterial Culture - wounds, abscesses, etc.</td>
<td>Superficial site - Sterile BBL Culture Swab, or BD ESwarb</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anaerobic Culture</td>
<td>Anaerobic gel tube or E-swab</td>
<td>48 hours 48 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blood Cultures, routine or VAD Catheter-related sepsis</td>
<td>Aerobic/Aerobic bottles Isolator tubes for CRS</td>
<td>&lt;6 hours preferred 16 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body Fluids, sterile sites (not urine)</td>
<td>Sterile cup or syringe, and anaerobic media</td>
<td>24 hours 24 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlamydia trachomatis, N. gonorrhea, Mycoplasma genitalium*, or Trichomonas PCR</td>
<td>Aptima Multitest Swab Thin Prep vial (*Not for Mycoplasma) 1st stream urine</td>
<td>72 hrs for best clinical impact 24 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature Refrigerated (Urine)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fungus Cultures</td>
<td>Blood – Isolator tube, ≥6ml Sterile swab Sterile tissue, Body fluid Hair, Skin, Nails</td>
<td>16 hours 72 hours 24 hours 7 days</td>
<td>Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gonorrhea Cultures</td>
<td>Charcoal swab – preferred Other sterile swab Sterile tissue, Body fluid</td>
<td>24 hours 6 hours 24 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes Simplex PCR</td>
<td>Universal Viral Transport</td>
<td>7 days</td>
<td>Refrigerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sputum, Bronch wash/lavage</td>
<td>Sterile Cup</td>
<td>24 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool - C. difficile toxin¹</td>
<td>Stool collection container</td>
<td>24 hours 5 days</td>
<td>Room temperature Refrigerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool - Helicobacter pylori²</td>
<td>Sterile container</td>
<td>2 hours 72 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature Refrigerated or frozen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool – Parasites, including Cryptosporidium and Giardia</td>
<td>Sterile container Total Fix Preservative</td>
<td>2 hours 72 hrs for best clinical impact</td>
<td>Room temperature Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool - routine culture</td>
<td>Sterile container or Para-Pak C&amp;S preservative</td>
<td>2 hours 72 hrs for best clinical impact</td>
<td>Room temperature Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue or Sterile body fluids for culture</td>
<td>Sterile container, and anaerobic transport media</td>
<td>24 hours 24 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throat - Beta Strep A PCR</td>
<td>White ESwarb</td>
<td>48 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urine culture</td>
<td>BD Vacutainer gray top³ Sterile Cup</td>
<td>48 hours 24 hours</td>
<td>Room temperature Refrigerated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vaginal Screen</td>
<td>Aptima Multitest Swab</td>
<td>72 hrs for best clinical impact</td>
<td>Room temperature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viral Specimen</td>
<td>Universal Viral Transport</td>
<td>72 hours</td>
<td>Refrigerated</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Formed stool for C. difficile is unacceptable.
² Watery stool for H. pylori is unacceptable.
³ BD Vacutainer gray top tube is recommended to reduce growth of contaminants.