

Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

General Guidelines for Specimen Collection and Transport

- This guide is not all inclusive. The items pictured are only the most common. Other devices may be required and other brands may be acceptable.
- Specimens should be collected in appropriate transport systems and transported as quickly as possible.
- Please refer to the chart on the back page for optimal 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.
- Please contact your local laboratory with any questions or concerns.

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

Specimen Collection Devices (Lawson numbers provided for lab staff)

Throat - Group A Strep DNA LAB 9722

Blue swab for rapid antigen test (POCT)

White eSwab and tube for DNA test

Copan dual swab (58087) or BD ESwab for DNA only (79477)



GC Culture Swabs LAB 235

Male
(76808)

Female
(76809)



Use only for GC culture.

The Aptima swab is also acceptable. See the next page.

MRSA PCR LAB1367

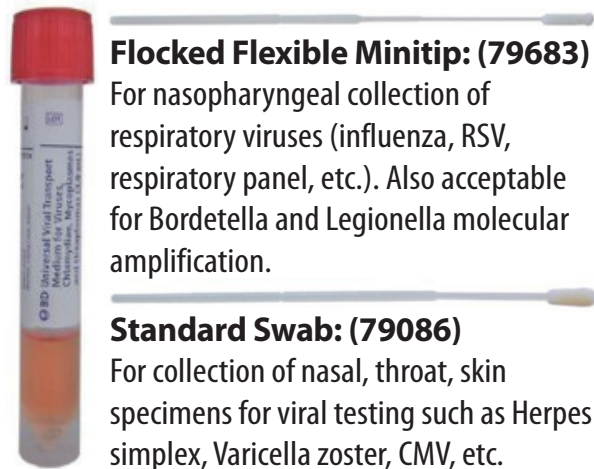
MSSA PCR LAB1747

GROUP B STREP DNA

Routine swab
(92587)



BD Universal Viral Transport



Flocked Flexible Minitip: (79683)

For nasopharyngeal collection of respiratory viruses (influenza, RSV, respiratory panel, etc.). Also acceptable for Bordetella and Legionella molecular amplification.

Standard Swab: (79086)

For collection of nasal, throat, skin specimens for viral testing such as Herpes simplex, Varicella zoster, CMV, etc.

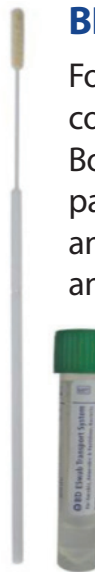
Insert swab into container, break at score line and recap.

BD Flocked ESwab

For nasopharyngeal collection of Bordetella pertussis/parapertussis and Legionella, and Mycoplasma pneumoniae molecular amplifications.

(79374)

Insert swab into container, break at score line and recap.



Aerobic, Anaerobic and Yeast Screen Cultures

For wounds, abscesses and non-surgical specimens

BD ESwab
(79477)



BD Urine Culture LAB 239

MUST submit BD Vacutainer for all urine cultures. (11229)
Prior to collection, instruct the patient to cleanse properly. Transfer urine cup specimen to gray top culture tube immediately.

Sharps hazard



Sterile Cup

Use for sputum collection and aerobic tissue cultures.

(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



Urine Cup

Male and female urine – first stream sample

Do not submit urethra samples.

LAB 10048

- Neisseria gonorrhoea
- Chlamydia trachomatis

LAB 16787

- Mycoplasma genitalium

LAB 10043

- Trichomonas vaginalis



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)



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**)



Para-Pak C&S

LAB 223

For preservation and transport of stool specimens for culture and GI PCR panel.

(04328)

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)



Please always send extra stool when available.

Maximum Specimen Transport Times and Storage Conditions

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

Specimen	Source	Maximum Time	Condition
Acid Fast Culture	Blood – 6-10 ml in Myco/F Lytic bottle	24 hours	Room temperature
	Sterile swab	72 hours	Room temperature
	Sterile tissue, Body fluid	72 hours	Room temperature
	Sputum/ Bronch	72 hours	Refrigerated
Aerobic Bacterial Culture - wounds, abscesses, etc.	BD ESwab,	48 hours	Room temperature
	Sterile syringe	24 hours	Room temperature
Anaerobic Culture	Anaerobic gel tube or	48 hours	Room temperature
	E-swab	48 hours	Room temperature
Blood Cultures, routine or VAD	Aerobic/Anaerobic bottles	<6 hours preferred	Room temperature
Catheter-related sepsis blood culture	Aerobic bottle	<6 hours preferred	Room temperature
Body Fluids, sterile sites (not urine)	Sterile cup or syringe, and anaerobic media	24 hours	Room temperature
		24 hours	
Chlamydia trachomatis, N. gonorrhea, Mycoplasma genitalium*, or Trichomonas PCR	Aptima Multitest Swab	72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature
	Thin Prep vial (*Not for Mycoplasma)		Room temperature
	1st stream urine	24 hours	Refrigerated (Urine)
Fungus Cultures	Blood – 6-10 ml in Myco/F Lytic bottle	24 hours	Room temperature
	Sterile swab	72 hours	Room temperature
	Sterile tissue, Body fluid	24 hours	Room temperature
	Hair, Skin, Nails	7 days	Room temperature
Gonorrhea Cultures	Charcoal swab – preferred	24 hours	Room temperature
	Sterile tissue, Body fluid	24 hours	Room temperature
Herpes Simplex PCR	Universal Viral Transport	7 days	Refrigerated
Sputum, Bronch wash/lavage	Sterile Cup	24 hours	Room temperature
Stool - C. difficile toxin ¹	Stool collection container	24 hours	Room temperature
		5 days	Refrigerated
Stool - GI PCR Panel	Para-Pak (Carey Blair) preservative (within 4 hours of collection)	72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature
Stool - Helicobacter pylori ²	Sterile container	2 hours	Room temperature
		72 hours	Refrigerated or frozen
Stool – Parasites, including Cryptosporidium and Giardia	Sterile container	2 hours	Room temperature
	Total Fix Preservative	72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature
Stool - routine culture	Sterile container or Para-Pak C&S preservative	2 hours	Room temperature
		72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature
Tissue or Sterile body fluids for culture	Sterile container, and anaerobic transport media	24 hours	Room temperature
		24 hours	Room temperature
Throat - Beta Strep A PCR	White ESwab	48 hours	Room temperature
Urine culture	BD Vacutainer gray top ³	48 hours	Room temperature
Vaginal Screen	Aptima Multitest Swab	72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature
Viral Specimen	Universal Viral Transport	72 hours	Refrigerated

¹ Formed stool for C. difficile is unacceptable.

² Watery stool for H. pylori is unacceptable.

³ BD Vacutainer gray top tube must be submitted for urine cultures to reduce growth of contaminants.

