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

Specimen Collection Devices (Lawson numbers provided for lab staff)

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)

Use only for GC culture.
Aptima swab is recommended for genital specimens.

Aerobic Culture

Wounds, abscesses, yeast screens

(Tissues or aspirates are preferred.)

NOT for GC or Chlamydia

Aerobic swab **(11041)**

Aerobic cultures SA PCR, MRSA PCR

Not for anaerobes

BD ESwab **(79477)**

Aerobic & anaerobic cultures and throat Strep A DNA

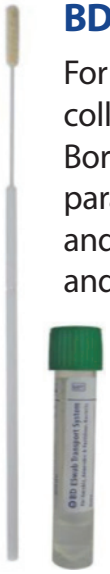
BD Universal Viral Transport

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 gonorrhea (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

LAB 10048
- Neisseria gonorrhea
- 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 gonorrhea
- 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.

(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 – Isolator tube, ≥6ml Sterile swab Sterile tissue, Body fluid Sputum/ Bronch	16 hours 72 hours 72 hours 72 hours	Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature Refrigerated
Aerobic Bacterial Culture - wounds, abscesses, etc.	Superficial site - Sterile BBL Culture Swab, or BD ESwab	48 hours	Room temperature
Anaerobic Culture	Anaerobic gel tube or E-swab	48 hours 48 hours	Room temperature Room temperature
Blood Cultures, routine or VAD Catheter-related sepsis	Aerobic/Anaerobic bottles Isolator tubes for CRS	<6 hours preferred 16 hours	Room temperature Room temperature
Body Fluids, sterile sites (not urine)	Sterile cup or syringe, and anaerobic media	24 hours 24 hours	Room temperature
Chlamydia trachomatis, N. gonorrhea, Mycoplasma genitalium*, or Trichomonas PCR	Aptima Multitest Swab Thin Prep vial (*Not for Mycoplasma) 1st stream urine	72 hrs for best clinical impact 24 hours	Room temperature Room temperature Refrigerated (Urine)
Fungus Cultures	Blood – Isolator tube, ≥6ml Sterile swab Sterile tissue, Body fluid Hair, Skin, Nails	16 hours 72 hours 24 hours 7 days	Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature Room temperature
Gonorrhea Cultures	Charcoal swab – preferred Other sterile swab Sterile tissue, Body fluid	24 hours 6 hours 24 hours	Room temperature Room temperature 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 5 days	Room temperature Refrigerated
Stool - Helicobacter pylori[2]	Sterile container	2 hours 72 hours	Room temperature Refrigerated or frozen
Stool – Parasites, including Cryptosporidium and Giardia	Sterile container Total Fix Preservative	2 hours 72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature Room temperature
Stool - routine culture	Sterile container or Para-Pak C&S preservative	2 hours 72 hrs for best clinical impact	Room temperature Room temperature
Tissue or Sterile body fluids for culture	Sterile container, and anaerobic transport media	24 hours 24 hours	Room temperature Room temperature
Throat - Beta Strep A PCR	White ESwab	48 hours	Room temperature
Urine culture	BD Vacutainer gray top[3] Sterile Cup	48 hours 24 hours	Room temperature Refrigerated
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 is recommended to reduce growth of contaminants.

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