

# Microbiology Collection Containers

SPECIMEN/TEST	COLLECTION CONTAINERS	TIME LIMITS FOR LAB DELIVERY	COLLECTION CONTAINER PICTURES
<b>Blood Cultures</b> Please include 1 aerobic and 1 anaerobic bottle in each set drawn.	Blood Culture bottles: Adult / children over 12 yrs. old: 1 set = 1 Aerobic + 1 Anaerobic.  Optimum draw: 2 sets from 2 different sites, 10 ml in each bottle. At least 1 set drawn peripherally.  Pediatric Patients and/or Difficult Draws: 1 Pediatric bottle (1 to 4 ml) or 1 Aerobic bottle (>5 to 10 ml). <b>DO NOT OVERFILL BOTTLES</b>	Lab prefers: <= 24 hrs.	
<b>AFB Culture</b> Note: swabs are not acceptable for AFB (TB) Culture	Tissue, fluid or (3ml minimum) respiratory secretions in sterile container  Aspirate with safety syringe tip cap	<= 1 hrs. Ambient <= 24 hours refrigerated	
<b>AFB Blood Culture</b>	SPS AFB Blood Culture Tube– AFB Blood cultures are sent out and must be transported to reference lab within 72 hrs. of collection	<= 72 hrs.	
<b>Routine Aerobic, Anaerobic, Fungus, and GC Cultures.</b>	1. Tissue, fluid or respiratory secretions in sterile container 2. Aspirate with safety syringe tip cap	Sterile container or Aspirate in syringe: <= 2 hrs. Ambient <=24 hrs refrigerated	
	3. ESwab Collection & Transport System with white cap & flocced swab & Amies liquid	ESwab: <= 24 hrs. Ambient	
<b>Urine Culture</b>	1. Fresh urine in sterile cup	<= 1 hr. Ambient <= 24 hrs. Refrigerated	
	2. Grey top – BD Vacutainer Urine tube	<= 48 hrs. Ambient	
<b>MRSA Culture</b>	E-Swab (BBL Amies gel swab is acceptable but not preferred.)	<= 24 hrs. Ambient	
<b>MRSA PCR</b> (nose source only)	COPAN Sterile Transport Swab (red cap and red label, double-scored swabs with liquid Stuart's medium in sponge). (DO NOT BREAK OFF SWAB AT THE SCORED AREA.)	<= 24 hrs. Ambient <= 5 days Refrigerated	
<b>Multiplex Vaginosis Panel-Cepheid MVP</b>	Cepheid Xpert Swab	<=42 days Ambient or Refrigerated	
<b>Gonorrhea/Chlamydia/Trichomonas Amplification</b>	1. GEN-PROBE APTIMA UNISEX SWAB (white cap with foil top) genital samples 2. Urine in Aptima collection tube (First 15-30 mLs voided urine – 2 mLs minimum) 3. Hologic Aptima (orange) multi-test Swab- throat, rectal, vaginal	< 30 Days Ambient or Refrigerated	
	4. Urine in a sterile cup (First 15-30 mLs voided urine – 2 mLs minimum)	<= 24 hrs. Refrigerated	
<b>Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)</b> <b>Varicella zoster virus (VZV)</b>	Swabs collected from cutaneous or mucocutaneous lesions placed in viral transport medium (UTM or M4RT)	<= 2 days Ambient <= 7 days Refrigerated	
<b>Pertussis PCR</b>	nasopharyngeal (NP) swab in viral transport medium (UTM or M4RT)	<= 2 days Ambient <= 4 days Refrigerated	
<b>Respiratory PCR</b>	nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or nasal swab in viral transport medium (UTM, VTM, or M4RT)	<= 4 hrs. Ambient <= 3 days Refrigerated	
<b>Flu RSV COVID PCR (FLUVID)</b> <b>SARS CoV-2</b>	nasopharyngeal (NP) swab or nasal swab in viral transport medium (UTM, VTM, or M4RT)	<= 48 hrs. Ambient <= 7 days Refrigerated	

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<b>Strep Pharyngitis Screen Culture, Strep Culture non-respiratory</b> (pediatric genital/perianal- group A)	ESwab Collection & Transport System or BBL Culture Swab Collection & Transport System	<=72 hrs. Ambient or Refrigerated	
<b>Group A Strep PCR</b>	Throat swab using ESwab™ 480CFA or ESwab™ 480C collection device	<= 48 hrs. Ambient <= 6 days Refrigerated	
<b>Group B Strep PCR</b> (perinatal strep)	ESwab Collection & Transport System with white cap & flocked Swab & Amies liquid  (BBL Amies gel swab is acceptable but not preferred.)	ESwab: <= 24 hrs. Ambient <= 5 days Refrigerated	
<b>Pinworm Prep</b>	Pinworm Collector with white cap vial & sticky paddle Include patient collection instructions with each vial.	<= 72 hrs. Ambient	
<b>Parasite Worm Exam</b>	1. Isolate worm and place into a sterile cup with a small amount of water.	Return to Laboratory within 8 hours Ambient or Refrigerated	1. 2.
	2. Place worm in a pink cap vial (formalin). Remove scoop from cap and discard	Specimen is viable Ambient or Refrigerated for 2 months or until vial expiration date, whichever comes first.	
<b>Fecal Occult Blood</b> (Diagnostic or 3 card series)	Fresh stool applied to test card immediately after collection Stool must be applied to card within 30 minutes. Follow instructions provided with cards.	<=30 minutes fresh stool Card - 14 days Ambient	
<b>GI PCR with Supplemental Culture</b>  <b>Stool Culture</b> includes: Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter, E. coli 0157, and ShigaToxins. Indicate any other organisms in comments.	Orange cap Cardinal C&S vial  Sterile containers can be used for collection if the specimen can be brought to a lab and transferred in less than 2 hours	<= 24 hrs. Ambient; <= 48 hrs. Refrigerated	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Within 2 hrs of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line.</div>
<b>Ova &amp; Parasites</b>	Pink cap (Formalin) <u>AND</u> Grey cap (Zinc PVA) Para-Pak transport vials. Transfer to vials within 30 minutes.	Specimen is viable Ambient or Refrigerated for 2 months or until vial expiration date, whichever comes first.	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Within 30 min of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line.</div>
<b>Giardia/ Cryptosporidium Antigen</b>	1. Pink cap (formalin) <u>OR</u>	Pink cap (formalin) specimen is viable Ambient for 2 months or until the vial's expiration, whichever comes first.	1. 2. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Within 30 min of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line.</div>
	2. Orange cap Cardinal C&S vial	Orange Cap (Cary Blair) <= 2 weeks Refrigerated	
<b>WBC Stool</b>	Orange cap Cardinal C&S vial	<= 24 hrs. Ambient; <= 48 hrs. Refrigerated	 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Within 60 min of collection, add only enough stool to bring liquid to red line.</div>
<b>Stool for C. diff PCR,</b>	Fresh stool in sterile cup	Refrigerate within 2 hrs. <= 4 days Refrigerated or Frozen *Transport on ice*	
<b>Norovirus PCR (ARUP)</b>	Fresh stool in sterile cup	<=2 hrs. ambient 72 hrs. Refrigerated *Transport on ice* 1 week frozen	