














**MICROBIOLOGY COLLECTION
QUICK REFERENCE**

It is extremely important to collect and transport the specimen properly so the laboratory can recover a pathogen. It is important to identify the source of the culture because growing conditions and tests to identify pathogens are specific. For additional assistance, consult the Interpath Laboratory Service Manual, Specimen Collection section, or call Client Services at (800) 700-6891. Additionally, if the patient is immunocompromised, please note this information on the requisition as well.

Test	Source	Collection Device	Collection Device	Submission Requirements
Aerobic Cultures	Eye/Ear, genital, throat and superficial wounds		Sterile culturette swab (Red Top)	Room Temperature
Anaerobic Cultures	Deep wounds, Abscesses and Body fluids		Anaerobic culturette swab (Blue Top) or aspiration in a sterile urine container or syringe {NO NEEDLES}	Room Temperature
AFB Culture Fungus Cultures Sputum Culture Urine Culture	"Deep" Sputum Skin scrapings, hair, toenails, etc. "Deep" Sputum Clean Catch or Catheterized specimens		Sterile container such as a urine container	Refrigerated Room Temperature Room Temperature (Stable 24 hours) Refrigerated
Bordetella Pertussis Culture	Nasopharyngeal		Sterile NP swab placed deep in Regan-Lowe Agar (black) (Store refrigerated, warm before inoculation)	Room Temperature
Chlamydia/GC by DNA Probe	Endocervical / Urethral		GenProbe Aptima Kits Female/Male combo – Insert the specimen collection swab (BLUE shaft swab in the package with green printing)	Room Temperature -or- Refrigerated
Chlamydia/GC – Urine	Urine		GenProbe Aptima Kits – Yellow vials with green packaging	Room Temperature -or- Refrigerated
Trichomonas Culture	Genital Swab		Tichosel Broth (Store refrigerated, warm before inoculation)	Room Temperature or 36 °C

Influenza A & B - Rapid	Throat, Nasopharyngeal, Nasal aspirate or Sputum		Sterile NP swab placed in provided transport system DO NOT USE WOODEN SWABS	Room Temperature
Viral Cultures: Herpes, RSV, influenza, etc.	Nasopharyngeal, Throat, Nasal aspirate, Vaginal, Urethral, etc.		Swab submitted in Viral Transport Media (VTM) DO NOT USE WOODEN SWABS (Pre-made kit with instructions)	Refrigerated
Stool Specimens	Stool Culture		Stool in Enteric Transport Media (ETM) Rectal Swab on sterile Culturette swab (Place stool in preservative within 2 hours of collection.)	Room Temperature Room Temperature
	O&P (Ova & Parasites) Cryptosporidium Giardia direct antigen		Stool in <u>Para-sef</u> O&P kit (PVA and 10% formalin) Fresh stool in sterile container -or- 10% formalin from O&P Fresh stool in sterile container -or- 10% formalin from O&P (Place stool in preservative within 2 hours of collection.)	Room Temperature Refrigerated Room Temperature Refrigerated Room Temperature
	C.difficile Rotavirus Fecal Fat (qualitative) Fecal Red. Substance Fecal pH Fecal Leukocytes (WBC) Norwalk Virus		2 grams fresh stool in sterile container Fresh stool in sterile container or fecal-laden swab. Fresh stool in sterile container Fresh stool in sterile container Fresh stool in sterile container Fresh stool, 10% formalin, PVA or ETM Fresh stool in sterile container	Refrigerated Refrigerated Room Temperature Refrigerated Refrigerated Refrigerated Frozen
	Pinworm		Pinworm paddles	Room Temperature