



Microbiology Specimen Collection

SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT

Specimen collection information for each test is provided in the test listing under "Specimen Requirements."

For multiple cultures, please submit a separate specimen for each culture request, e.g., bacterial, AFB (no swabs accepted), fungal culture.

If the specimen is collected on a swab, each culture type requires one swab. Transport media is available from our Supplies Department.

- Collect primary specimens in sterile, **leak-proof** containers.
- Refrigerate urine immediately after collection or submit in a urine transport system.
- Submit specimens collected on swabs in transport media, such as a Culturette.
- Refrigerate (do not freeze) all AFB, fungal, and viral cultures to prevent bacterial overgrowth.
- Hold all other specimens on swabs at room temperature until transported.
- **Do not** incubate primary specimens.
- Keep blood cultures at **room temperature** until transported. **Do not incubate or refrigerate.**