

Viral Specimen Collection

Universal transport media (UTM) is required for viral cultures and is available from our Supplies Department. **Do NOT use a wooden shaft swab, or swabs with calcium alginate or cotton tips for collection of viral specimens.** The inoculated swab should be placed in universal transport media (UTM) immediately after collection. Refrigerate all viral specimens at 4°C immediately after collection. Do not freeze. If a viral culturette is used, crush the ampule to moisten the swab. Refrigerate. Submit all specimens with an "Infectious Disease" requisition containing complete requested patient information. **Indicate source, date, and time on the requisition.**

CSF

Submit 1.0 mL to 2.0 mL CSF in a sterile, leak-proof container.

CYTOMEGALOVIRUS

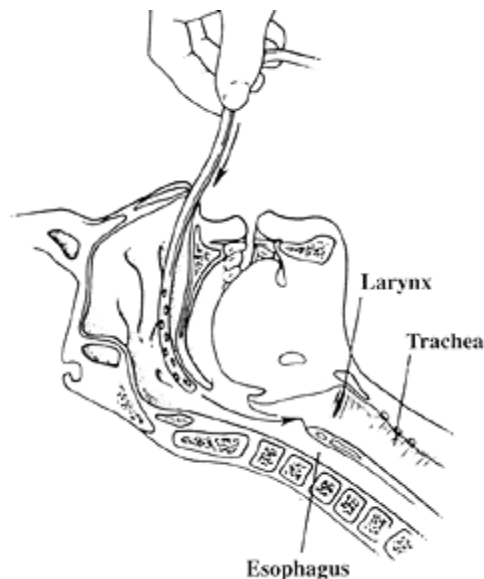
Blood, bronchial lavage, bronchial washings, lung tissue, throat, and urine are appropriate specimens for cytomegalovirus testing. Refer to specific testing method for recommended specimen type.

NASOPHARYNGEAL/NASAL WASH

1. Attach catheter to suction apparatus.
2. Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees. Insert several drops of sterile normal saline into each nostril.
3. Insert catheter into nostril. (Catheter should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of ear.)
4. Begin gentle suction. Remove catheter while rotating it gently.
5. Place specimen in sterile transport media tube.

Reference: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/healthcare/flu-specimen-collection-guide.pdf>

NOTE: Sputum is not recommended for respiratory viral testing because it does not contain adequate cells.



Stool

Submit pea-sized portion of stool in universal transport media (UTM). Refrigerate. If stool is liquid, collect approximately 5.0 mL. Mix and put 1.0 mL in universal transport media.

Urine

Submit 2.0-4.0 mL of a freshly voided urine in a sterile, leakproof container or 3.0 mL of urine in universal transport media (UTM). A fresh morning urine is preferred. Refrigerate.

Viral Cultures

Virus	Specimen
Adenovirus	CSF, eye swab, nasopharyngeal washing, stool, throat swab, or urine
Coxsackie A & B	CSF, pericardial fluid, stool, throat, or vesicle fluid
Echovirus	CSF, pericardial fluid, stool, throat, or vesicle fluid
Enterovirus (Coxsackie, Echo, & Polio)	CSF, pericardial fluid, stool, throat, or vesicle fluid
Herpes simplex	CSF, eye, genital, throat swab, tissue biopsy, or vesicular fluid
Influenza A & B	NP washing or throat swab
Parainfluenza 1,2,3,4	NP swab or washing, or throat
Poliovirus	CSF, stool, or throat swab
Respiratory Syncytial Virus	Not recommended if specimen transport requires >30 minutes to the laboratory. See RSV by DFA.