# MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDE

The following guide includes general instructions for the most commonly collected microbiology specimens. For comprehensive and test-specific instructions, please refer to our test catalog collection requirements for each test.

## Collection Container | Container Details | Special Instructions
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**BACTERIOLOGY AND VIROLOGY SPECIMEN CONTAINERS**

### BacT Alert Blood Culture Bottles
- **Adults:**
  - Collect an aerobic bottle (Green) and an anaerobic bottle (Orange) per body site.
  - **10 mL of blood in each bottle.**
- **Pediatric:**
  - Collect an aerobic bottle (Yellow) and an anaerobic bottle (Orange) if applicable.
  - **Please see online lab catalog for recommended pediatric weight-based blood culture volumes.**
- Specimen must arrive **within 24 hours** of draw.
- An anaerobic bottle by itself is **NOT** acceptable.
- Specimen source is required; Be specific – indicate right or left, body site or central line site, including port color if applicable.

### Flocked Swab - Regular
- Preferred swab for aerobic, anaerobic, AFB, and fungal cultures
- Transport will vary based on the type of specimen collected and the type of culture needed. Please refer to the online test catalog for transport requirements.

### Flocked Swab - Mini tip
- Used for Strep screen testing
- Other acceptable swabs:
  - BD BBL Culture Swab Liquid Stuart (Cat#220109/220099)
  - Remel Liquid Amies Dual Swab Pack (Cat# R723095)
  - Remel Bacti Swab II (Cat# R12200) or Remel Bacti Swab (Cat# R12100)
- For strep screen, do **NOT** use calcium alginate, cotton tipped or wooden shaft swabs or swabs placed in charcoal or agar medium.
- Transport as soon as possible after collection **within 72 hours** of collection at room temperature or refrigerated.

### Strep Screen Kit
- Used for the testing of viruses:
  - Influenza A&B Differentiation
  - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Antigen
  - Viral Culture – Herpes, CMV, & more
  - PCR detection – EBV, VZV, CMV, HSV, etc.
- Printezable collection instructions for RSV and Flu specimens can be found online under test codes 6583 and 0150

### M4 Viral C&S Transport Media
- Used for the following tests:
  - Respiratory Panel by Film Array
  - Influenza A/B Antigen (Differentiation), Nasal
  - Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Antigen
- Printable collection instructions for RSV and Flu specimens can be found online under test codes 6583 and 0150
- Specimens for the Respiratory Panel by Film Array must arrive refrigerated **within 3 days**

### UTM with Minitip Flocked Swab
- Used for the following tests:
  - Sputum Culture
  - Sputum for AFB culture
  - Sputum for MTB/Rif (Mycobacterium *tuberculosis* Complex PCR with Rifampin Resistance)
- Transport refrigerated **within 24 hours** of collection.
- Greater than 10 mL of sputum is **NOT** acceptable for AFB culture.
- An AFB culture must be ordered and performed in conjunction with all requests for MTB/Rif testing.
- MTB/Rif testing has not been evaluated on patients less than 18 years of age.

### Sterile Cup
- Used for the following tests:
- Sputum Culture
- Sputum for AFB culture
- Sputum for MTB/Rif (Mycobacterium *tuberculosis* Complex PCR with Rifampin Resistance)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Container</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>BACTERIOLOGY AND VIROLOGY SPECIMEN CONTAINERS</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culturette - Mini- Tip</td>
<td>Used for <em>Bordetella pertussis</em> and <em>Bordetella parapertussis</em>, Molecular Detection, PCR</td>
<td>Transport ambient or refrigerated <em>within 7 days</em> of collection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Culturette - Gel</td>
<td>Used for wet prep testing</td>
<td>Transport at Ambient temperature <em>within 24 hours</em> of collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vaginal Swab for BV testing</td>
<td>Used for Bacterial Vaginosis (BV) Screen (Test code 1024)</td>
<td>Transport at <em>room temperature</em> <em>within 48 hours</em> or refrigerated <em>within 7 days</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MOLECULAR SPECIMEN CONTAINERS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aptima Urine Collection Kit [GEN-PROBE Transport Tube]</td>
<td>Used for detecting <em>Chlamydia, Neisseria gonorrhoeae</em> (GC) and <em>Trichomonas</em></td>
<td>Patient should NOT urinate for at least 1 hour prior to specimen collection.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Acceptable Specimens:</strong> Male &amp; female urine</td>
<td>Patient should collect first portion of voided urine into a sterile, preservative-free urine collection cup. Urine volumes greater than 30 mL may decrease test sensitivity.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Unacceptable Specimens:</strong> midstream specimen, incorrect specimen volume, transport tube with compromised foil cap, leaking specimen, and preserved urine in grey top tube</td>
<td>Transfer 2 mL of urine into the Aptima GenProbe transport tube. <strong>The correct volume is achieved when the fluid level is between the two black fill lines.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Aptima Unisex Swab Kit [GEN-PROBE Swab]</td>
<td>Used for detecting <em>Chlamydia, Neisseria gonorrhoeae</em> (GC) and <em>Trichomonas</em></td>
<td>Please see online lab catalog for specific collection instructions for each specimen type.</td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Acceptable Specimens:</strong> Female endocervical swab; male urethral swab.</td>
<td><strong>The specimen source is required.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Unacceptable Specimens:</strong> no swab in transport tube, white cleaning swab only, transport tube with white and blue swabs, transport tube with compromised foil cap leaking specimen, and specimen submitted with incorrect volume of diluent</td>
<td>Eye, throat and rectal swabs will be sent to Mayo Medical Labs for testing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aptima Multitest Swab Kit [GEN-PROBE Swab]</td>
<td>Used for detecting Chlamydia, <em>Nesseria gonorrhoeae</em> (GC), and <em>Trichomonas</em>.</td>
<td>Please see online lab catalog for specific collection instructions for each specimen type.</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Acceptable Specimens:</strong></td>
<td><strong>The specimen source is required.</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>o Chlamydia and GC: Clinician or patient-collected vaginal swab specimens.</td>
<td>Eye, throat, and rectal swabs will be sent to Mayo Mei</td>
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<td>o Trichomonas: ONLY clinician-collected vaginal swab specimens.</td>
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<td><strong>Unacceptable specimens:</strong> no swab in transport tube, transport tube with compromised foil cap, leaking specimen, and specimen submitted with incorrect volume of diluent</td>
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#### MOLECULAR SPECIMEN CONTAINERS

| MRSA Swab | COPAN double swab with scored shaft containing Liquid Stuart’s transport media | • Used for the detection of MRSA/MSSA from nasal swabs.<br>• No other transport medium is acceptable. |

#### STOOL SPECIMEN CONTAINERS

| Sterile Cup | Used for the following tests: <ul><li>C. difficile PCR</li><li>Rotavirus</li><li>Stool Lactoferrin</li><li>Occult Blood Immunoassay</li></ul> | • Store in refrigerator and transport on ice within 24 hours of collection.<br>• Stool contaminated with urine is not acceptable.<br>• For C. difficile testing: <ul><li>Specimen MUST be soft or liquid</li><li>MUST wait 7 days before repeat testing</li></ul> |

| Total Fix | Used for the following tests: <ul><li>Giardia/Cryptosporidium EIA</li><li>OCP</li><li>WBC Stool</li></ul> | • Add stool to FILL LINE. Do not overfill. Recap and shake until contents are well mixed.<br>• Store and transport at room temperature. Send to lab within 30 days of collection.<br>• Stool contaminated with urine is not acceptable. |

| Para-Pak® Enteric Plus | Used for the following tests: <ul><li>Stool Culture</li><li>Shiga-Toxin E. coli</li><li>GI Panel</li></ul> | • Add stool to FILL LINE. Do not overfill. Recap and shake until contents are well mixed.<br>• Store in refrigerator and transport on ice within 72 hours of collection.<br>• Stool contaminated with urine is not acceptable. |

| Hema Screen™ Card | Used for the Occult Blood by Guaiac | • Specimen must arrive within 21 days of collection at room temperature.<br>• It is recommended that fecal specimens for testing be collected from at least 3 consecutive bowel movements since bleeding from gastrointestinal lesions may be intermittent. |

#### URINE SPECIMEN CONTAINERS

| Urine Collection Kit | Grey Top Tube: <ul><li>Preferred urine culture container</li><li>Contains preservatives that can maintain the bacterial population in the specimen</li><li>Transport with 48 hours refrigerated or at room temperature</li></ul> | • Please see online lab catalog for specific collection requirements by specimen type. <br>Suprapubic aspirate and percutaneous nephrostomy fluid submitted in an anaerobic transport vial within 24 hours of collection are the only urine specimens acceptable for anaerobic culture. |

|  | Yellow Top Tube: <ul><li>Used for urinalysis and urine culture testing</li><li>Contains preservatives that maintain cellular integrity and inhibit bacterial metabolism</li><li>Transport at room temperature within 2 hours of collection and refrigerated within 24 hours of collection</li></ul> |  |

|  | Sterile Cup: <ul><li>Used for chemistry, urine culture and other lab testing; Preservative-free</li><li>Transport at room temperature within 2 hours of collection and refrigerated within 24 hours of collection</li></ul> |  |