

[Specimen Types:](#)

- › **Body Fluid** - Greater than 15 mLs is optimal volume. Send a minimum of 1.0 mL.
- › **Bone Marrow** – Send 1.0 mL minimum in heparinized tube at *room temperature*.
- › **Bronchial** - Greater than 5 mLs is optimal volume. Send a minimum of 1.0 mL.
- › **CSF** – Send a minimum of 2.0 mLs.
- › **Gastric Aspirate** – 5-10 mLs is optimal volume. Send a minimum of 5.0 mLs.
- › **Sputum** – 5-10 mLs is optimal volume. Send a minimum of 3.0 mL of specimen. Three consecutive days of deeply expectorated early morning sputum should be sent to ensure good recovery of mycobacteria
- › **Tissue** – Send in sterile container with a small amount of sterile saline to prevent drying.
- › **Urine** – 40 mLs is optimal volume. Send a minimum of 10 mLs for adult and 5 mLs for a child.
- › **Wounds/Pus** – Only fluid, aspirations, or tissue specimens are acceptable. Swabs will be rejected. Saline may be added to small tissue or biopsy samples to keep them moist.

[Specimen Requirements:](#)

- › Send specimens in sterile leak-proof container. Sterile screw cap containers are preferred.
- › Always label specimen and include source.
- › Refrigerate until sent unless noted (Bone Marrows are to be sent at room temperature).

[Unacceptable Specimens:](#)

- › More than one specimen per source per 24 hours.
- › 24 hour or pooled specimens.
- › Swabs for wound/pus specimens.

[Materials Needed:](#)

- › For Fluid specimens – Sterile screw cap container.

[Specimen Collection:](#)

- › Follow the appropriate specimen collection instructions found on the sidebar content.
- › For Gastric Aspirate, collect in early morning before patient eats and while they are still in bed. Perform lavage with 25-50 mLs of chilled, sterile, distilled water. Collect 1 specimen per day for 3 consecutive days.