

**Epidemiology & Disease Control Program and Community Health Surveillance and Laboratories Administration
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene**

**Laboratory Specimen Collection Kits
November, 1988; Revised May, 1995**

Section I. Culture or Identification of Organisms

KIT	ORGANISM	TYPE OF SPECIMEN	TEST	TRANSPORT MEDIUM AND TYPE OF CONTAINER	INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSPORT	PROCESSING TIME	OTHER
Campylobacter (See Vibrio-Campylobacter)							
Chlamydia EIA	Chlamydia trachomatis	Swab of endocervix Male urethra, Conjunctiva; male urine	Elisa for chlamydia	Swabs; Syva Microtak, Chlamydia EIA, Specimen Collection Kit (Urine; clean, Dry container)	Urine 2-8°C Others 2-25°C	3-5 days	Urine: Collect <u>first</u> 5 ml or more at least 1 hour after prior voiding
Chlamydia Culture	Chlamydia trachomatis	Swab of endocervix, urethra, conjunctiva, nasopharynx	Culture for organism	Sucrose Phosphate Solution in tube (2SP)	Refrigerate immediately; deliver On wet ice	10 working days	Separate kits: 1) male: calcium alginate swab 2) female: 3 Dacron swabs, 1 cytology brush, 1 blue slide
Enteric Pathogen	E. coli Salmonella Shigella Yersinia enterocolitica	Stool: One marble sized piece or tablespoon is sufficient for all tests	Culture for organism	Buffered Glycerol Saline (BGS) in jar	Ambient temperature	4-5 days	Unless otherwise Specified, the Specimen is cultured only for Salmonella, Shigella, and E. coli 0157:H7. Other organisms must be requested on the laboratory slip
Herpes		Swab of vesicle, genital lesion, conjunctiva Swab of lesion	Culture for virus	Modified Amies media in tube	Refrigerate after collection and deliver on wet ice or freeze at -70°C and ship on dry ice Refrigerate after collection and ship on wet ice only (within 1 day)	3-7 days One month or more for HZV	Specimens for CMV should be collected in a Miscellaneous Kit and shipped within 12 hours of collection on wet ice

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Miscellaneous Culture	Haemophilus Influenzae Neisseria Meningitidis Staphylococcus Streptococcus Other aerobic Microorganisms (e.g., Candida, Acinetobacter, and Others)	Swab of eye, throat Swab of throat Swab of conjunctiva, eye wound, skin Swab of throat Skin Swab of cervix, wound, etc. Swab of cervix	Culture for organism	Amies transport media in tube	Ambient temperature	24-48 hours	Fluid, tissue or exudate which is <u>not</u> on a swab should be submitted in a sterile jar or sterile tube Swab of cervix: Done for gardnia and Beta Strep only unless special request
Miscellaneous Jar	Bacillus cereus Campylobacter Clostridium botulinum Clostridium perfringens Staphylococcus Streptococcus, beta hemolytic	Stool: Fill jar at least half full (need at least 1 gram)	Culture for organism	Sterile jar	Refrigerate after collection; deliver on wet ice as soon as possible	2-10 days	Submitter should Specify which test(s) is (are) requested on the laboratory specimen slip

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Pertussis (culture and smear)	Bordetella pertussis	Swab of nasopharynx Smear	Culture for Organism Fluorescent antibody	Reagan-Lowe media in tube	Ambient temperature	7 days 24 hours for smear	Kit available by special request
Throat Culture	Diphtheria (Corynebacterium diphtheriae) Pneumococcus Staphylococcus Streptococcus	Swab of nasopharynx	Culture for organism	Tellurite in tube	Ambient temperature	24 hours for Staph & Strep 48 hours for Pneumococcus 5 days or more for Diphtheria	Submitter should Specify which Test(s) is (are) Requested on the Laboratory Specimen slip
Transgrow	N. gonorrhea N. meningitidis	Swab of cervix, Urethra, throat, Skin lesion	Culture for Organism	Transgrow media in bottle	Place in 35°C incubator immediately or leave at room temperature until incubated. Do <u>not</u> refrigerate	4-5 days	CSF or joint fluid should be submitted in sterile tube
Vibrio-Campylobacter (Cary-Blair)	Campylobacter Vibrio cholera v. parahemolyticus	Swab of stool, wound	Culture for organism	Cary-Blair (semi-solid) in tube	Ambient temperature	4-5 days	

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Viral Throat Swab	Adenovirus Enteroviruses (coxsackie, echo, polio) Influenza A Influenza B Parainfluenza 1 Parainfluenza 2 Parainfluenza 3 Respiratory Viruses RSV	Swab of throat Swab of Nasopharynx	Culture for virus	Tryptose (plus Antibiotics in tube)	Refrigerate after collection and shi on wet ice within a few hours of collection or freeze at -70°C and ship on dry ice Do not freeze Specimens for RSV	1 month	Conjunctiva may be cultured for Adenovirus and
Virus Stool	Adenovirus Coxsackie Echovirus Enterovirus Poliovirus Rotavirus	Stool: One marble sized piece or one tablespoon is sufficient for all tests Vomitus: One Tablespoon Stool	Culture for virus Except Rotavirus ELISA for Rotavirus	Sterile jar	Refrigerate and deliver on wet ice if transported within a few hours of collection or freeze at -70°C and ship on dry ice	4-5 weeks 7 days for Rotavirus	Mumps can be tested in urine, throat washing, and CSF

Section II. Serologic Tests

KIT	ORGANISM	TYPE OF SPECIMEN	TEST	TRANSPORT MEDIUM AND TYPE OF CONTAINER	INSTRUCTIONS FOR TRANSPORT	PROCESSING TIME	OTHER
Rubella Virus Blood	Mumps Rubella Rubeola (Measles) Varicella (Chickenpox)	Serum or clotted blood	Antibody titers	Sterile red top tube	Ambient Temperature	24-48 hours	Request IgM to rule out acute infection
Serological Tests Histoplasma	Bacterial Fungal Parasitic (e.g., Legionella, Borelia borgdorfen)	Serum or clotted blood	Antibody titers	Sterile red top tube	Ambient temperature	Call lab; 5-15 days	See lab slip for Complete list of tests; may need acute and convalescent bloods
Viral Hepatitis	Hepatitis A Hepatitis B Hepatitis C Delta Agent Enteroviruses (Coxsackie, Echo, Polio)	Serum or clotted Blood	Antigen/ Antibody titers: Be more Specific - e.g., HAVIgM HAVIgG (for epi purposes) HBVsAG HBVcABIGM or IgG HBVeAG HBVEAB HCVAb HDVAb	Sterile red top tube	Ambient temperature	3-7 days, once the test is run	The hepatitis A test is run once a week. The hepatitis B test is run 4 times per week. Delta tests are run once or twice per month. Check desired test(s) on lab slip.
Virus Blood	Arboviruses Influenza Parainfluenza Adenovirus	Serum or clotted Blood	Antibody titers	Sterile red top tube	Ambient temperature	Call lab to find turn around time	Need acute and convalescent bloods

To obtain collection kits contact Laboratories Administration by calling 410-767-6120; to obtain help with outbreak investigations contact Epidemiology and Disease Control by calling 410-767-6677