



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES  
PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES**



**MYCOBACTERIOLOGY  
COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT**

**Procedure for Collection:**

1. Identify the patient.
2. Label the tube with the patient name and date of collection.
3. Complete the requisition form (provided in kit) including the patient name, date of birth, specimen order number, date and time of collection, and ordering physician.
4. Indicate, on the requisition, the test requested and the source of the specimen.
5. Collect the specimens under the following conditions for optimal laboratory results:
  - a. Collect the specimens before chemotherapy is started.
  - b. For sputum specimens, have the patient rinse mouth out with water before sample is collected.
  - c. Collect specimens in sterile, clean containers (sterile 50ml conical centrifuge tube is provided in kit).
  - d. Place specimen container in plastic zipper bag (provided in kit).
  - e. Place bag in aluminum container provided.
  - f. Wrap requisition form around outside of aluminum container.
  - g. Place aluminum container into the green-label cardboard container.
  - h. Seal and package specimen containers carefully to avoid leakage or breakage in transit.
  - i. Mail first class or hand/courier deliver to the Public Health Laboratories within 24 hours of collection. Refrigerate specimens if impossible to mail out immediately.
6. For specimen requirements of frequently ordered specimens – see table below. For a more complete list of specimen requirements - refer to the PHL Lab Service Manual.

**Additional Important Information:**

1. Good laboratory work cannot compensate for a poor quality specimen. Obtaining a quality specimen is very important.
2. The use of culturettes is not recommended.
3. Preservatives such as formaldehyde or formalin should never be added to the specimen. To prevent tissue samples from drying, it is recommended to transport specimens in a liquid such as sterile saline, sterile water, or Middlebrook 7H9 broth.

4. Saliva and nasopharyngeal discharge are not sputum. Collect only the exudative material brought up from the lungs after a deep productive cough.
5. Sputum Induction: The inhalation of warm aerosolized hypertonic saline (5-10%) irritates the lungs enough to induce coughing and produce a specimen. Since these specimens resemble saliva it is very important that they are labeled as "INDUCED SPUTUM".
6. All specimens should be delivered/mailed to the Public Health Laboratories immediately, since contaminating bacteria grow at a much faster rate than mycobacteria and can decrease the chances of isolating any possible mycobacteria.

### GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR SPECIMEN SUBMISSION

SOURCE	SPECIMEN REQUIRED	STORAGE/TRANSPORT
BLOOD	10ml whole blood in SPS (sodium polyanethol sulfonate)	Hold and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
BODY FLUIDS (csf, pleural, pericardial, synovial and ascitic)	Aseptically collect in sterile container or SPS for pericardial fluid; 2-3 ml for CSF and 3-5 ml for all others	Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
BONE MARROW	Aseptically collect at least 0.3 ml (0.5-1.0 is preferred) in SPS or sodium heparin in a sterile container	Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
BRONCHIAL	Washings- in sterile container; Brushes in sterile saline, distilled water or Middlebrook 7H9 broth	Hold and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
GASTRIC LAVAGE	Neutralized with 100mg of Sodium bicarbonate per 5 – 10 ml specimen	Must be neutralized within 2 hours of collection and transport ambient
SPUTA	Series of 3 specimens collected at least 8 hours apart with one specimen collected in the early morning	Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
STOOL/FECES	3-5 grams in sterile container	Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
TISSUES	Place small piece (5-8mm) of tissue in sterile container containing 1-2 mL of either sterile saline, sterile water, or Middlebrook 7H9 broth	Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing
URINE	About 10mL of first morning specimen; suprapubic aspirate, midstream, or catheterized; place in sterile container	Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing

The TB Collection Kit consists of:

1. A green-label cardboard outer mailing container
2. An aluminum inner container
3. A sterile 50mL graduated collection tube
4. A plastic zipper bag
5. A Laboratory test request (requisition) form
6. A Specimen Collection instruction sheet

If there are any questions concerning specimen collection or handling or the process of ordering kits, call (603) 271-4661 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4661.