



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



**VIRUS CULTURE**  
**SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT**

**Place ice pack in freezer upon receipt.**

**Procedure for collection:**

1. Verify that the Universal Transport Media (UTM) transport media has not expired. Results obtained from specimens received in expired media may not accurately reflect patient condition.
2. Identify the patient. Label the UTM transport media with patient name, specimen source and the date of collection.
3. Fill out the PHL test requisition form completely and legibly.
4. Follow the instructions below for the specific site of specimen collection.

*Nasopharyngeal:*

With the patient's neck in an extended position, gently insert a sterile DACRON nasopharyngeal swab into the nostril. Pass the swab along the floor of the nose until it contacts the posterior nasopharyngeal wall and gently rotate for 5 seconds to absorb secretions. Remove the swab and place it in the UTM transport media. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial and cap the tube.

*Throat:*

Depress tongue gently with tongue depressor. Sweep a sterile Dacron swab back and forth across the posterior pharynx, tonsillar areas, and any inflamed or ulcerated areas. Avoid cheeks, teeth, etc. Remove the swab and place it in the UTM transport medium. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial and cap the tube.

*Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF):*

Proper collection of CSF is the responsibility of medical staff. Follow procedures established at your local institution. Aseptically place a minimum of 0.5ml of CSF into a sterile 15ml plastic tube. *Do not place CSF in UTM transport medium.* Cap the tube.

*Urethral:*

Insert the urethral DACRON swab 2 to 4 cm into the urethral lumen. Rotate the swab and leave it in place for at least 2 seconds to facilitate absorption. Remove the swab and place it in the UTM transport medium. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial and cap the tube.

*Cervical:*

Visualize the cervix using a speculum without lubricant. Remove mucous and secretions from the cervix with a sterile DACRON swab and discard the swab. With a second sterile DACRON swab, sample the endocervical canal. Remove the swab and place it in the UTM transport medium. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial and cap the tube.

*Rectal:*

Carefully insert a sterile DACRON swab approximately 1 inch beyond the anal sphincter and gently rotate the swab. Remove the swab and place it in the UTM transport medium. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial and cap the tube.

*Stool:*

Collect the stool specimen in a wide mouth container, bedpan, or on a clean newspaper or plastic wrap stretched over the toilet seat opening to prevent the stool from falling into the toilet. **DO NOT MIX URINE WITH THE SAMPLE.** Place a pea-sized sample of stool into the UTM transport media and cap the tube. It is important to sample areas of the specimen that appear bloody, slimy, or watery.

*Wound/Lesion/Ulcer:*

Remove any scab or crust covering the lesion. Remove any secondary infection exudate with a sterile piece of gauze or sterile swab. Compress the base of the lesion to promote the accumulation of tissue fluid on the lesion surface. Obtain a sample using a sterile DACRON swab. Aseptically break off or cut the applicator leaving the tip in the vial of UTM transport media and cap the tube.

*Urine:*

Collect a clean catch urine specimen from the patient. Aseptically place 1 to 3 mls of urine into a sterile 15ml tube. *Do not place urine in UTM transport media.* Cap the tube.

5. To seal and prevent leaking of the sample tube, stretch and pull a piece of parafilm around the outside of the tube and cap. Place sample tube into the resealable plastic bag provided.
6. Specimens should be refrigerated (2-8°C) as soon as possible after collection.
7. Keep specimen cold during transportation. Place the specimen in the aluminum inner liner with the freezer pack provided in the kit. Cap the inner liner. Wrap the completed PHL test requisition form around the outside of the inner liner and place into the cardboard mailing container.
8. Mail or transport to the laboratory promptly to reduce the growth of contaminating bacteria and fungi.

**Kit components for culture:**

1. 1 tube of UTM viral transport media
2. 1 DACRON nasopharyngeal swab
3. 2 DACRON plastic shaft swabs
4. Parafilm
5. 1 small resealable bag
6. 1 freezer pack
7. Specimen collection instructions
8. PHL test requisition form
9. Cylindrical aluminum liner
10. Cardboard mailing container

To order kits, please call the Public Health Laboratories at 603-271-4661 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4661.

For technical questions, ask to speak to the Virology Unit.

Revised 2/1/2006 wdl  
2/14/08 shm