



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



MYCOLOGY
SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT

***All dry swabs are unacceptable.**

Important Information:

1. Good laboratory technique cannot compensate for a poor quality specimen.
2. SWABS are unacceptable for true fungal studies. Culturettes with aerobic holding solution/media may be submitted with a request for YEAST CULTURE ONLY (unacceptable for dimorphic yeasts and fecal/stool yeast cultures). ALL DRY SWABS are unacceptable.
3. The PHL does not routinely accept veterinary or environmental specimens. Specimens in bacteriostatic solutions are unacceptable for processing. Anaerobically held specimens are unacceptable.
4. All samples must be labeled with patient identification and submitted with a completed requisition form, identifying patient and test requested and sample information.

Procedure for collection:

1. Place the specimen in a sterile screw-capped conical tube (provided) and then label with patient information.
2. Place the labeled tube in a plastic zipper lock bag and then into the metal liner (provided).
3. Fill out the Requisition form (provided) completely and legibly.
4. Wrap the requisition form around the metal liner and place in the cardboard mailer (provided).
5. Mail first class or hand/courier deliver to the PHL as soon as possible.

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 |
| 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 brain heart infusion broth | Hold and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| CSF | At least 3ml in a sterile container, but as much CSF as possible is preferred | Hold and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| EXUDATES/PUS, etc. | Aspirated or scraped material in a small quantity (less than the volume of material collected) of sterile distilled water, saline, or brain heart infusion broth | Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |

| SOURCE | SPECIMEN REQUIRED | STORAGE/TRANSPORT |
|----------------|--|---|
| EYE/EAR | Washings or scrapings of the affected area in sterile saline, distilled water, or brain heart infusion broth | Hold and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| FLUIDS | Aseptically collect in SPS or sodium heparin in sterile container; 10-50mL is preferred | Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| HAIR | At least 8 infected hair shafts, best detected using Wood's lamp, in sterile dry container | Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| NAILS | Cleanse nail area with 70% alcohol, clip or scrape underside of nail and nail bed and place material in a dry sterile container | Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| NASOPHARYNGEAL | Curettage material is preferred, antral washings are of limited value. Swabs may be submitted for YEAST CULTURE ONLY | Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| SKIN SCRAPING | Cleanse area with 70% alcohol, scrape the margin of lesion and place the material in a dry sterile container | Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| SPUTA | At least 3-5mL of purulent material in sterile container | Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| STOOL/FECES | May be useful adjunctively to detect disseminated yeast infections. Diarrheal stool specimens for YEAST CULTURE ONLY. Swabs are unacceptable | Hold 2-8°C and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| TISSUES | Cleanse area with 70% alcohol, biopsy margin of the lesion and wrap in sterile gauze wet with sterile saline, distilled water, or brain heart infusion broth; place in sterile dry container | Hold 2-8°C or ambient and transport ambient (15-30°C); avoid freezing |
| URINES | At least 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 |

If you have any questions, please call the Public Health Laboratories at 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4661 or 603-271-4661.