



Jeffrey A. Meyers
Commissioner

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Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301-6503
603-271-4661 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4661
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MYCOBACTERIOLOGY COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT KIT

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.

TB Collection Kit contents:

- 95KPa Specimen Transport Bag with absorbent paper
- A sterile 50ml conical centrifuge collection tube
- A small plastic zipper bag
- A Laboratory test request (requisition) form
- A Specimen Collection instruction sheet

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 the sterile 50ml conical centrifuge tube provided in kit.
 - d. Place specimen container in plastic zipper bag provided in kit.
 - e. Place bag through opening in front of the 95KPa Specimen Transport bag provided.
 - f. Follow closing instructions on front of bag. Remove tape liner strip from top of 95KPa bag and fold flap at opening. Press firmly to seal.
 - g. Fold requisition form in half and place into the outside pocket located on the back of the 95KPa bag.
 - h. Hand/courier deliver it to the PHL within 24 hours of collection. Refrigerate specimens if unable to send immediately.
 - i. If mailing specimen to the Public Health Laboratories:
 - i. Place specimen in the 95KPa bag.
 - ii. Place bag, with the specimen, into the green-label cardboard container.
 - iii. Mail first class within 24 hours of collection.
 - iv. Refrigerate specimens if unable to mail out immediately.



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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 brain heart infusion 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

**For kit orders, please call the Public Health Laboratories at:
603-271-4605 or 1-800-852-3345 ext. 4605**

For technical questions, please call the Clinical Microbiology Unit at 603-271-4661