














# MICROBIOLOGY SPECIMEN COLLECTION






## Microbiology, Laboratory Services

- ◆ **ALL SPECIMENS AND MEDIA TO BE FULLY LABELLED WITH SURNAME & GIVEN NAMES, UR NUMBER, DATE & TIME OF COLLECTION, & SITE. ALL LIDS TO BE SCREWED ON TIGHTLY BEFORE TRANSPORT.**

SAMPLE TYPE	EQUIPMENT REQUIRED	DIAGRAM	COLLECTION	TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMENTS
<b><i>Bacteriology Specimens</i></b>				
Surface/Cavity/ Wound swabs M&C	1 Amies Charcoal Transport swab <sup>(1)</sup>  1 glass slide & holder*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Roll 1<sup>st</sup> swab onto slide and discard swab</li> <li>▪ Place 2<sup>nd</sup> swab into medium in the charcoal transport tube</li> </ul>	After collection, keep slide and Transport swab at room temp until transported to CORE laboratory within 1 – 2 hours. Eye swabs: Babies < 10 days, also suggest Chlamydia PCR. (see Chlamydia PCR for Eye Swabs)
Urine/ fluid/ aspirates (inc. gastric asp)/ sputum,	1 sterile 70 ml yellow capped container* - For small volumes (eg aspirates) use 10ml sterile tube*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer specimen aseptically into container. Screw lid tightly.</li> </ul>	Refrigerate until transported to CORE laboratory.
Faeces	1 brown topped faeces container*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Collect sample into container</li> </ul>	Refrigerate until transported to CORE laboratory.
Pus M&C	1 sterile 70 ml yellow capped container* - For small volumes (eg aspirates) use 10ml sterile tube*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transfer specimen aseptically into container. Screw lid tightly</li> </ul>	Transport as soon as possible to CORE laboratory
TB culture / PCR – sputum or gastric aspirate	Sterile 70mL yellow container*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect sputum or gastric aspirate into sterile container</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE laboratory within 2 hours; keep at room temperature

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<b>B. pertussis</b> culture and PCR	<p><b>Either:</b> NPA <b>OR</b> Nasal epithelium swab: for PCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Flocked swab*</li> <li>- Saline tube<sup>(2)</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>AND</b> Orange Copan swab for culture<sup>(1)</sup></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collect NPA into a sterile container</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swab nasal epithelium with flocked swab for PCR (1-2 cm inside nose) and place swab in saline.</li> <li>• Swab again with orange Copan swab for pertussis culture.</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE laboratory within 1-2 hours
Eye swabs - (for <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> ) - By PCR  (For genital swabs – see section below)	Cobas collection kit <sup>(2)</sup>		(Ignore instructions on collection kit.) Swab the eye and place swab in collection tube.	After collection, keep swab at room temperature and transport to CORE Lab as soon as possible. If delivery will be longer than 1-2 hours, keep specimens at 4C until transported to Core Lab
Blood Cultures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Yellow (<b>paediatric</b>) bottle<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>▪ Green (<b>aerobic</b>) bottle<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>▪ Orange (<b>anaerobic</b>) bottle<sup>(1)</sup></li> <li>▪ Mycoplasma bottle (Silver cap)<sup>(1)</sup></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Aseptically inoculate up to 4ml of blood</li> <li>▪ Aseptically inoculate up to 10ml of blood</li> <li>▪ Aseptically inoculate up to 10ml of blood</li> <li>▪ Aseptically inoculate 3-5ml of blood</li> </ul>	Store all bottles at room temperature until inoculated. Transport to laboratory for incubation as soon as possible. NEONATES: collect Paediatric bottle + Mycoplasma bottle if clinically indicated INFANTS: collect Paediatric bottle CHILDREN: aerobic & anaerobic bottles if clinically indicated, (eg. Deep abscess) ONCOLOGY: aerobic /paediatric and anaerobic bottles ADULTS: aerobic and anaerobic bottles (+ Mycoplasma bottle at RWH if clinically indicated eg. Obstetric/gynaecology patients) <b>DO NOT affix patient bradma label over blood culture bottle barcode or on base of bottle.</b>

<b>Fungal culture</b>				
Skin scrapings/Hair/ Nail for <b>Fungal Culture</b>	1 sterile 70 ml yellow capped container* Glass slide/forceps/ nail clippers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Skin lesion – scrape superficial skin from outer edge of lesion with edge of a glass slide.</li> <li>▪ Hair – full hair strand required (pulled)</li> <li>Nails – nail cuttings, ± scraping from under nail</li> </ul>	DO NOT put the collection between glass slides but rather in the container.  After collection, store at room temperature until delivery to CORE Laboratory
<b>Viral swabs</b>				
Swabs/Scrapings (eg corneal, conjunctival, skin, oral, genital, anal) for <b>HSV and VZV</b> and other viral studies	HSV & VZV Kit <sup>(2)</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Refer to kit instructions.</li> <li>▪ Roll 1<sup>st</sup> swab over broken vesicle then roll onto slide</li> <li>▪ Roll 2<sup>nd</sup> swab over vesicle and break off swab into saline.</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE laboratory as soon as possible otherwise refrigerate until delivered within 1 – 2 hours. If received by 12 noon, same day result for direct immunofluorescence available.
NPA/BAL/Sputum/ Respiratory Secretions for <b>Viral Studies</b>	1 sterile 70 ml yellow capped container.* OR use container provided with suction set*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Place fluid/secretions in container OR</li> <li>▪ Collect specimen using suction set as appropriate</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE laboratory as soon as possible otherwise refrigerate until delivered within 1 – 2 hours. If received by 12 noon, same day result for direct immunofluorescence available.
Throat swab Nasal swab for <b>Viral Studies</b>	1 Sterile flocked swab* 1 Saline <sup>(2)</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Swab throat or nasal passage and place swab into Saline.</li> <li>▪</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE laboratory as soon as possible otherwise refrigerate until delivered within 1 – 2 hours. If received by 12 noon, same day result for direct immunofluorescence available
Body fluids, Aspirates & Tissues for <b>Viral Studies</b>	1 sterile 70 ml yellow capped container* (For small volumes use 10ml sterile tube*)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Add 10-20 ml sterile Normal saline to tissue sample <u>ONLY</u>.</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE laboratory as soon as possible otherwise refrigerate until delivered.

Swabs for <b>PCR – HSV, VZ, Adenovirus, CMV, M. genitalium, B. pertusis, C. pneumoniae C. trachomatis</b>	1x Sterile flocked swab* 1x Saline in tube <sup>(2)</sup> If I/F is required for HSV, VZV & Adenovirus. Otherwise just a flocked swab.		Swab lesion/surface and place swab into saline tube. If vesicular, please lance after consulting with clinical Microbiologist.	Deliver to CORE Lab within 1 – 2 hours.
<b>GENITAL SWABS</b>				
Vaginal swab M&C (high or low) and endocervical swabs	1 peel back Amies Charcoal Transport swab kit <sup>(1)</sup> 1 glass slide & holder*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roll 1<sup>st</sup> swab onto slide and discard swab.</li> <li>Place 2<sup>nd</sup> swab into medium in the Transport tube</li> </ul>	After collection, keep slide and Transport swab at room temp until transported to CORE laboratory within 1 – 2 hours.
Endocervical/ urethral swab or First void urine for <b>C.trachomatis and N. gonorrhoeae PCR</b>	Cobas collection kit for swab <sup>(2)</sup> OR 1 sterile 70 ml yellow capped container*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow instructions on Cobas kit</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Collect First void urine (10-20 ml) into sterile container</li> </ul>	After collection, keep urine and swab at room temperature and transport to CORE Lab as soon as possible. If delivery will be longer than 1-2 hours, keep specimens at 4C until transported to Core Lab
Cervical brush Hybrid Capture (for <b>HPV</b> ) – can use Thin Prep fluid (see below)	Digene cervical brush & Specimen Transport Media <sup>(2)</sup>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Follow instructions on kit</li> </ul>	Prior to use kit can be stored at room temperature. After collection, deliver to CORE Lab as soon as possible.
Thin prep sample for Hybrid Capture ( <b>HPV</b> )	Cytc PreservCyt soln <sup>(3)</sup> Cervical spatula or brush as used for PAP smear*		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Place sample in solution</li> </ul>	Deliver to CORE Lab as soon as possible. PAP smear collected into thin prep solution can be used for HPV detection.

**Enquiries:** Bacteriology: **9345 5738**, Virology: **9345 5850**, Molecular Microbiology: **8345 3673**

**Footnotes:**

\* Stock item available from Stores

<sup>(1)</sup> Available from RCH: Bacteriology Lab, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor OR RWH: Media Store at CORE Lab 5<sup>th</sup> Fl.

<sup>(2)</sup> Available from RCH: CORE Lab, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fl OR RWH: Media Store at CORE Lab 5<sup>th</sup> Fl

<sup>(3)</sup> obtain from VCS