

Specimen Type	Collection	Rejection Criteria	Transport/Storage Temperature
Abscess – cellulitis, eye exudate, skin lesion	<p>Preferred volume: as much as possible</p> <p>Remove surface exudate by wiping with sterile saline or 70% alcohol. Collect fluid abscess material with syringe.</p> <p>For open lesions/abscesses, aspirate material from under the margin of the lesion/abscess.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sample in formalin or other preservatives - Swab 	Refrigerate
Blood	<p>Preferred volume: 10 mL Minimum volumes: 5 mL adult, 1 mL child</p> <p>Aseptically collect whole blood in sodium polyanetholsulfonate (SPS – yellow top) or heparin (green top) collector tube.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clotted blood - EDTA (purple top) - ACD (yellow top - acid citrate dextrose) 	Room temperature
Body Fluids - pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, paracentesis, thoracentesis, synovial, etc.	<p>Preferred volume: 15 mL Minimum volumes: 10 mL adult, 1 mL child, 1 mL synovial fluid</p> <p>For extremely bloody specimens use an SPS (yellow top) or heparin (green top) blood collection tube.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swab 	Refrigerate
Bone Marrow	<p>Preferred volume: 10 mL Minimum volume: 1 mL</p> <p>Aseptically collect bone marrow in sodium polyanetholsulfonate (SPS – yellow top) or heparin (green top) and mix after collection.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EDTA (purple top) - ACD (yellow top - acid citrate dextrose) 	Room temperature

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Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL), bronchial washings or brushings, endotracheal and transtracheal aspirates	<p>Preferred volume: ≥ 5 mL Minimum volumes: 3 mL adult, 1 mL child</p> <p>Place bronchial brushing in sterile container with up to 5 mL sterile saline.</p>		Refrigerate
Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF)	<p>Preferred volume: 10 mL Minimum volume: 2 mL</p>		Refrigerate
Gastric Aspirate/ Lavage Fluid	<p>Preferred volume: < 15 mL in 100 mg sodium carbonate adjusted to neutral pH</p> <p>Collect in early morning before patient eats and while they are still in bed. Perform lavage with 25-50 mL of chilled, sterile, distilled water. Collect 1 specimen/day on 3 consecutive days.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specimen that has not been neutralized. - Multiple specimens taken from same day - Swab 	Room temperature
Sputum	<p>Preferred volume: 5 - 10 mL Minimum volume: 3 mL</p> <p>Early-morning specimen from deep, productive cough. <u>Expectorated sputum</u>: instruct patient as to difference between saliva and sputum. Have patient rinse mouth with water before collecting sputum to minimize contamination with food, mouthwash, oral drugs, etc.</p> <p><u>Induced sputum</u>: use sterile hypertonic saline. Indicate on request if specimen is induced, as these watery specimens resemble saliva.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 24-hour pooled specimens - Multiple specimens taken from same day that are < 8 hours apart 	Refrigerate

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Stool	Preferred volume: > 1 gram Minimum volume: 1 gram Stool is discouraged for mycobacterial cultures.	- Swab	Refrigerate
Tissue/Biopsy – Lymph node	Preferred volume: As much as possible Collect aseptically during surgery or cutaneous biopsy procedure. Add 2-3 mL of sterile saline for transport.	- Formalin or any other preservative - Swab	Refrigerate
Urine	Preferred volume: 40 mL Minimum volumes: < 10 mL adult, < 5 mL child First morning specimen is preferred.	- 24-hour pooled - Multiple specimens from one day - Any preservative	Refrigerate