

Microbiology Specimen Collection and Transport Guide

Swab Collection and Transport Devices

Prior to specimen collection, store all transport devices at room temperature unless otherwise indicated. Prior to use, inspect collection and transport materials for their expiration dates.

Swab or Double Swab in Amies Agar Gel

Use for aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture and fungal culture. Use double swab when both culture and Gram stain are needed. Use for Group B *Streptococcus* colonization detection from vaginal/rectal specimens. Remove white cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with colored cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert swab (still attached to colored cap) firmly into the agar gel in the transport tube. Do not break or cut the shaft. Transport at room temperature after collection. Supply order number: 33302, 49481, 33325



Double Polyester Dry Swab

Use for Group A Strep Rapid Antigen Screen and Group A Strep Direct DNA Probe. Acceptable for Group A Strep Culture. **Do not use for routine bacterial culture.** Transport at room temperature after collection. Supply order number: 33235, 48222



Double Swab in Liquid Amies Medium

Use for BV sialidase activity and vaginal yeast culture. Remove white cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with colored cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert swab (still attached to colored cap) firmly into the sponge in the transport tube. Do not break or cut the shaft. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate for up to 72 hours after collection. Supply order number: 33336



Swab in Liquid Stuart's Medium

Use for MRSA detection by nucleic acid amplification. Remove white cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with colored cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert (still attached to colored cap) firmly into the sponge in the transport tube. Do not break or cut the shaft. Transport at room temperature after collection for up to 48 hours. Supply order number: 33346



Nasopharyngeal Dry Flocked Swab

Use for viral culture (eg, influenza) or nucleic acid amplification (NAA) testing (eg, *B pertussis*) of nasopharyngeal specimens. **For *B pertussis* NAA only:** Place swab into its **dry plastic transport tube** and transport at room or refrigerated temperature. **For other NAA testing and viral culture of nasopharyngeal specimens:** Place swab in Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT) and transport at room temperature for up to 24 hours after collection or refrigerate. Supply order number: 93307



Soft Aluminum Wire Dry Minitip Swab

Use for bacterial culture of nasopharynx or for bacterial/viral culture of male urethra. Can be used for nucleic acid amplification testing (eg, HSV) from male urethra. For *B pertussis* culture, place swab in *Bordetella* Culture Transport. For other bacterial culture, place swab in Amies Agar Gel Bacterial Transport. For viral culture or nucleic acid amplification testing, place swab in Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT). See Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) & NuSwab® Tests by Nucleic Acid Amplification for additional information regarding collection and transport for detection of these pathogens. Supply order number: 19771, 24068



Urine Culture Transport

Use for urine culture only. This gray-top Vacutainer® transport will maintain bacterial colony counts during transport to the lab for a period of 48 hours. Fill tubes to the minimum fill line (at least 4 mL). Do not submit a red/yellow swirl-top Vacutainer® urinalysis preservative tube for urine culture. Transport at room temperature after collection. Supply order number: 25067, 23643



Vacutainer® Urine Culture Transport Tube

Jembec Plate for GC Culture

Culture media transport system containing Modified Thayer Martin agar used to improve recovery of *N gonorrhoeae*. Plates are stored refrigerated and should be prewarmed prior to use. Inoculate Jembec plate with specimen by rolling swab over surface of medium. Remove the CO₂ tablet from the foil pouch and place in the well of the plate, and seal inoculated plate in a zip-lock bag. Preincubate at 35°C (if possible) prior to transport at room temperature. Supply order number: 33297



Jembec Plate

QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube (QFT®) Assay for Tuberculosis Infection

The QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube (QFT) collection kit is used to submit specimens for the interferon-gamma release assay for detection of tuberculosis infection. This QFT kit contains collection instructions and 3 unique blood collection tubes (a Nil Control tube [grey cap], a TB Antigen tube [red cap] and a Mitogen tube [purple cap]). Collect whole blood into each of the 3 collection tubes and shake vigorously. Position tubes in QFT kit and seal kit. Submit kit for receipt in the laboratory within 14 hours after collection, or, alternatively, incubate QFT kit upright at 37±1°C for 16 to 24 hours as soon as possible (within 16 hours of collection) and then submit. Indicate on kit box whether specimens were incubated prior to submission. Store kit at room temperature prior to use. Transport at room temperature after collection or incubation. Supply order number: 67473



QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube (QFT®) Kit

Sterile Container

Use for transport of specimens for those tests where preservative is contraindicated; for example, sputum for bacterial culture; or nails, hair, and skin for fungal culture. Refer to LabCorp *Directory of Services and Interpretive Guide* for proper transport temperature for a specific test request. Supply order number: 20648



Sterile Container

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) by Hybrid Capture®

Submit the Digene HPV transport tube containing specimen transport medium for the detection of low- and/or high-risk types of human papillomavirus (HPV) in cervical specimens by nucleic acid probe hybridization. Obtain specimen by first removing excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding ectocervix using a cotton or polyester swab and then inserting the Digene cervical sampling brush 1.0-1.5 cm into the cervical os until the largest bristles touch the ectocervix. Do not insert brush completely into the cervical canal. Rotate brush 3 full turns in a counterclockwise direction, remove from the canal, and insert brush into the transport tube. Snap off shaft of sampler at scored line, leaving brush end inside tube, and recap securely by snapping in place. Transport at room temperature. Supply order number: 22495



Digene Hybrid Capture® 2 HPV Collection and Transport Kit

Universal Transport Medium

The multipurpose Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT) is used for the collection and transport of specimens to be tested for viruses, *Chlamydia*, *Mycoplasma*, and *Ureaplasma*. Additionally, UTM-RT can be used for transport of swab specimens submitted for detection of bacterial (except *B pertussis*) or viral DNA by NAA (eg, PCR). UTM-RT can be stored at room or refrigerated temperature prior to specimen collection. Collect specimen using appropriate sampling swab, and then place swab in medium, breaking off shaft in tube. Transport and store at room temperature for up to 24 hours after specimen is placed into medium or refrigerate. For PCR testing, specimen may be transported at room or refrigerated temperature. **Note:** If M4 or M4-RT transport medium (not supplied by LabCorp) is used instead of UTM-RT, a) M4-RT can be stored at room temperature before specimen collection but cannot be used for transport of specimens for *Mycoplasma* and *Ureaplasma* culture, b) M4 may be kept at room temperature for up to 30 days prior to use but requires refrigerated storage before specimen collection if held longer, and c) both M4 and M4-RT must be kept refrigerated after specimen collection. Supply order number: 24674



UTM-RT Transport (Purple-cap)

Routine Blood Culture

Use an Adult or Pediatric Blood Culture Collection Kit for culture of blood for bacteria and yeast. Indicate if culture is to rule out *Brucella* or *Francisella*. Transport bottles at room temperature after collection. **Adults** (2-bottle set): Collect blood using blood collection set and adapter cap, following instructions on procedural chart included in kit. Inoculate 8-10 mL into the BacT/Alert® aerobic bottle, and then inoculate 8-10 mL into the BacT/Alert® anaerobic bottle. If collection volume is low, submit using only the aerobic bottle. The aerobic bottle has no minimum volume requirement. **Children** (1 bottle): Collect blood using blood collection set and adapter cap, following instructions on procedural chart included in kit. Inoculate up to 4 mL into the BacT/Alert® Pediatric bottle. Supply order number: 50053 (adult), 50054 (pediatric)



Aerobic, Anaerobic, and Pediatric BacT/Alert® Blood Culture Bottles

Trichomonas Culture

The InPouch™ TV system is used to maintain the viability of *T vaginalis* during transport. Tear open pouch at notch and insert swab into liquid of upper chamber. Gently press swab between walls of the chamber, and then discard swab. Roll down pouch 2 full turns, and fold end tabs to lock. Transport at room temperature after collection. Supply order number: 83557



InPouch™ TV Trichomonas Transport and Culture Medium

Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) & NuSwab® Tests by Nucleic Acid Amplification

For detection of *C trachomatis*, *N gonorrhoeae*, *T vaginalis*, herpes simplex virus 1 & 2, *Candida* species, genital *Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma*, and/or bacterial vaginosis Submit the APTIMA® vaginal swab transport with orange label (preferred transport) for amplified detection of *C trachomatis* (Ct), *N gonorrhoeae* (Ng), *T vaginalis* (Tv), herpes simplex virus (HSV) 1 & 2, *Candida* species, *M hominis*, *Ureaplasma*, *M genitalium*, and/or bacterial vaginosis (BV) from vaginal fluid specimens. Collect vaginal sample by contacting the swab to the lower third of the vaginal wall and rotating the swab for 10-30 seconds to absorb fluid. Immediately place the swab into transport tube and carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube. Alternatively, submit the APTIMA® unisex swab transport with white label for amplified detection of Ct, Ng, Tv, *M hominis*, *U urealyticum*, *M genitalium*, or HSV 1 & 2 from endocervical or male urethral specimens. A vaginal specimen is required if the unisex swab is used for amplified detection of BV and/or *Candida* species. All tests can be performed from a single transport device. Do not place more than 1 swab in a single transport device. Do not use the white-shafted cleaning swab that comes with the unisex swab to collect specimen. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate after collection. Supply order number: 47874, 57677, 33291

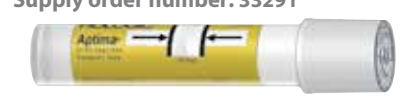


APTIMA® Vaginal Swab Transport (preferred for NuSwab® testing)



APTIMA® Unisex Swab Transport

Submit the APTIMA® urine transport with yellow label for amplified detection of Ct, Ng, Tv, *M hominis*, *Ureaplasma*, and/or *M genitalium* from male or female first-void urine specimens. Total volume of urine submitted must fall between the two black lines indicated on the transport tube label. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate after collection. Supply order number: 33291



APTIMA® Urine Transport



Bordetella Culture Transport

Bordetella Culture Transport

Charcoal-containing Regan-Lowe medium is used for transport of specimens for *B pertussis* culture. Store refrigerated before use. Allow medium to warm to ambient temperature before inoculation. Place aluminum wire minitip swab into transport medium after nasopharyngeal specimen is obtained. Preincubate the inoculated bottle at 35°C (if possible) prior to transport at refrigerated temperature. Alternatively, for detection of *Bordetella* DNA by nucleic acid amplification (NAA) testing, submit a nasopharyngeal **dry** flocked swab in its **dry plastic transport tube** at room or room temperature. Supply order number: 31965

BD Affirm™ VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System

Vaginitis/Vaginosis by DNA Probe

Submit the BD Affirm™ VPIII ATTS sample collection tube for detection of *Candida* species, *G vaginalis*, and *T vaginalis* from vaginal fluid swab specimens of patients with symptoms of vaginitis/vaginosis. Break the ampule and dispense the ambient temperature transport reagent into the sample collection tube before placing the swab specimen into the tube. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate after collection. **Specimens must be tested within 72 hours after collection.** Supply order number: 56228



PVA and Formalin Vials

Ova & Parasites (O&P) Transport

The pink (formalin) and gray (PVA) Para-Pak® vials are used for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites examination. Place stool into each vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Both vials should be submitted for the O&P exam. For *Giardia* antigen, *Cryptosporidium*, *Microsporidium*, and *Cyclospora* exams, submit stool specimens in a pink vial. Submit stool in a gray vial for fecal leukocyte detection. These tests must be ordered separately from the O&P exam. Transport at room temperature after collection. Supply order number: 49627

Sterile Body Fluid Culture

Use the Vacutainer® Plus No Additive Tube for transport of sterile body fluid specimens (eg, cerebrospinal, synovial, or peritoneal fluids) for culture. Alternatively, an empty sterile tube, other sterile leakproof container, or BacT/Alert blood culture bottle can be used. A Vacutainer red-top tube is **not** acceptable. Transport at room temperature. Supply order number: 44370



Vacutainer® Plus No Additive Transport Tube

Sampling Probe

Fecal Occult Blood by Immunoassay (iFOBT) Submit stool obtained using Polymedco sampling bottle to detect occult blood by immunochemical method. Scrape surface of fecal sample with sampling probe until grooved portion of probe is completely covered with stool. Insert probe into sampling bottle and snap cap on tightly. Transport at room temperature after collection. **Include test requisition with device when submitting specimen to lab by mail.** Testing must be performed within 15 days of specimen collection. Contact LabCorp representative for ordering information.



Sampling Bottle

Stool Transport Without Preservative

The white Para-Pak® clean vial is used for transport of stool for those tests where preservative is contraindicated; for example, *C difficile* toxin, rotavirus, and *H pylori* antigen. Refer to LabCorp *Directory of Services and Interpretive Guide* for proper transport temperature for a specific test request. Supply order number: 59517



Clean Vial

Stool Culture Transport

The orange Para-Pak® vial containing Cary Blair transport medium is designed to maintain the viability of enteric pathogens during transport to the laboratory. Place stool into vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Rectal swabs collected from pediatric patients are placed into the vial after breaking off the shaft. Transport at room temperature after collection. Supply order number: 49628



C&S Vial

Supply Ordering Information

Item	Reorder Number
Affirm™ VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System	56228
APTIMA® Unisex Swab Transport, 50/box	57677
APTIMA® Urine Transport, 50/box	33291
APTIMA® Vaginal Swab Transport, 50/box (preferred for NuSwab® tests)	47874
Blood Culture Adult Collection Kit	50053
Blood Culture Pediatric Collection Kit	50054
<i>Bordetella</i> Culture Transport (Regan-Lowe)	31965
Digene Hybrid Capture® 2 HPV Collection and Transport Kit	22495
Fecal Occult Blood iFOBT Collection Mailer, 20/pack (Contact LabCorp representative for ordering information)	
InPouch™ TV <i>Trichomonas</i> Transport	83557
Jembec Plate for GC	33297
Para-Pak C&S Vial	49628
Para-Pak Clean (Empty) Vial	59517
Para-Pak O&P Vials (PVA and Formalin)	49627
QuantiFERON®-TB Gold In-Tube Collection Kit	67473
Sterile Body Fluid Culture Vacutainer® Transport Tube	44370
Sterile Container	20648
Swab, Amies Agar Gel, 50/box	33302
Swab, Amies Agar Gel, 500/case	49481
Swab, Double, Amies Agar Gel, 50/box	33325
Swab, Double, Amies Liquid, 500/case	33336
Swab, Double, Dry, Polyester (for Strep), 50/box	33235
Swab, Double, Dry, Polyester (for Strep), 500/case	48222
Swab, Dry, Soft Aluminum Wire, Minitip, 100/box	19771
Swab, Dry, Soft Aluminum Wire, Minitip, 1000/case	24068
Swab, Flocked, Dry, Nasopharyngeal, 100/box	93307
Swab, Stuart's Liquid, 50/pack	33346
Urine Culture Collection Cup	20648
Urine Culture Collection Transfer Straws	25067
Urine Culture Vacutainer® Transport Tube	23643
UTM-RT Viral/ <i>Chlamydia</i> / <i>Mycoplasma</i> Transport, Female Swab	24674

