# Microbiology Specimen Collection Guidelines

**Clinical Microbiology Laboratory:** Health Sciences Centre: 204-787-1273  
St. Boniface Hospital: 204-237-2484  
Revised: January 15, 2013

**Specimens Should Reach Testing Laboratory Within 24 hours**  
Please refer to the Specimen Collection Manual for details: [www.dsmanitoba.ca/professionals/files/Policy_120-10-05.pdf](http://www.dsmanitoba.ca/professionals/files/Policy_120-10-05.pdf)

## Specimen Collection Container

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container Type</th>
<th>Source &amp; Test Request</th>
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| **SWAB IN TRANSPORT MEDIA**         | EYE, EAR, NOSE & THROAT Swabs  
  - Bacterial culture                  |
|                                     | SURVEILLANCE CULTURE Swabs  
  - MRSA: Nose & Skin Lesion/Wound  
  - VRE: Rectal Swabs only           |
|                                     | VAGINAL Swabs  
  - Bacterial Vaginosis & Yeast  
  - Trichomonas Antigen              |
| **STERILE SCREW CAPPED CONTAINER** | ASPIRATE/STERILE FLUID  
  - Bacterial culture  
  (Fungi & Mycobacteria if applicable) |
|                                     | HAIR/NAIL/SKIN  
  - Fungal culture                    |
|                                     | INDWELLING LINE/INPLANT BACTERIAL CULTURE                                             |
|                                     | RESPIRATORY SECRECTIONS  
  - Bacterial culture  
  (Fungi & Mycobacteria if applicable) |
|                                     | STOOL  
  - Routine Enteric Pathogen culture  
  - If delayed transport: Add sample to enteric pathogen transport system  
  - C. difficile Toxin Assay          |
|                                     | TISSUE/BIOPSY  
  - Bacterial culture, Fungi & Mycobacteria                                           |
| **BLOOD CULTURE BOTTLES**           | URINE  
  - Bacterial culture  
  (Fungi & Mycobacteria if applicable)                                                  |
|                                     | **O&P TRANSPORT CONTAINER WITH PRESERVATIVE (SAF)**  
  - Ova & Parasites                    |
| **STERILE SCREW CAPPED CONTAINER** | **CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID (Tube #2)**  
  - Bacterial culture  
  (Fungi & Mycobacteria if applicable)                                                  |
|                                     | **RED TOP TUBE**  
  - SEROLOGY  
  - Infectious Mononucleosis  
  - ASOT: Antistreptolysin O Titre                                                     |
|                                     | **PINWORM PADDLE KIT**  
  - PINWORM  
  - Enterobius vermicularis                                                          |

### Special Collection Instructions

- **SWAB IN TRANSPORT MEDIA**  
  - Eyes: Sample both conjunctivae if possible
- **SURVEILLANCE CULTURE**  
  - Nose: Sample both nostrils with one swab
- **VAGINAL Swabs**  
  - Swab mucosal membrane of vaginal vault
  - Separate swab for *Trichomonas Antigen*
- **VAGINAL/RECTAL Swab**  
  - Swab distal vagina & rectum with same swab; collect at 35-37 weeks gestation
- **WOUND Swab**  
  - Pre-clean wound prior to sample collection as per Nursing Procedure Manual
- **STERILE SCREW CAPPED CONTAINER** (No Preservatives)  
  - Clinical details needed if anaerobic culture ordered
- **HAIR/NAIL/SKIN**  
  - Keep at room temperature
- **INDWELLING LINE/INPLANT**  
  - Bacterial culture
- **RESPIRATORY SECRECTIONS**  
  - Minimum 5 mL required for each test
  - Mycobacteria: collect 3 first morning sputa
- **STOOL**  
  - Volume required: ≥5 mL
- **TISSUE/BIOPSY**  
  - Transport ASAP to lab ≤15 mins; add sterile saline to keep moist
- **BLOOD CULTURE BOTTLES**  
  - DO NOT REFRIGERATE
  - Do not collect from one site
  - Site 1: Collect 10 mL in aerobic (blue) and 10 mL in anaerobic (purple) bottle
  - Site 2: Collect 10 mL in aerobic (blue) bottle
  - Volume required: ≥1 mL
  - Mycobacteria: collect 3 first morning urines in sterile screw capped containers
- **CEREBRAL SPINAL FLUID (Tube #2)**  
  - DO NOT REFRIGERATE
  - Volume required: ≥1 mL
  - Mycobacteria: ≥2 mL
  - Fungi: ≥2 mL
- **RED TOP TUBE**  
  - Collect 5-7 mL of blood in red top tube
- **PINWORM PADDLE KIT**  
  - Collect sample by pressing the paddle onto the anus in early morning (prior to defecation)

**Viral or other Microbiology test requests sent to CPL:** Consult Cadham Lab Guide to Services [http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/index.html](http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/publichealth/cpl/index.html)