



SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PHL SPECIMEN COLLECTION QUICK GUIDE

TEST	SPECIMEN SOURCE	COLLECTION DEVICE	MAXIMUM SPECIMEN STABILITY	SPECIAL NOTES
MYCOBACTERIOLOGY (AFB)				
Acid Fast Culture/Smear	Sputum, Urine, Stool, Bronchial Lavage/Wash, Gastric, Blood, Body Fluid	Sterile Container	Refrigerate - DO NOT FREEZE. Stable for 5 days.	Blood, Bone Marrow, CSF, store at room temperature
M. tuberculosis (GeneXpert®) NAAT	Sputum (5 ml minimum volume), Bronchial wash (0.5 ml minimum volume for decontaminated specimens)	Sterile plastic container	Store @ 2° to 8°C until transported or processed	Transport specimen to Laboratory as soon as possible
M. tuberculosis Susceptibility	Pure M. tuberculosis isolates	LJ Slants	Stable @ room temp	
Mycobacterial Culture for ID	Pure Isolate	LJ Slant	Stable @ room temp	
QuantiFERON®-TB Gold	Whole blood to (1) Lithium-Heparin tube or (4) QFT - Plus tubes	QFT-Plus tubes: (1) Nil, (1) TB1, (1) TB2, (1) Mitogen	Stable @ room temp <16 hours	Call Laboratory for transport instructions.
BACTERIOLOGY				
B. pertussis Culture	NP Swab	Dacron swab in Regan-Lowe media	24 hr. @ room temp.	Collect at symptom start
B. pertussis NAAT	NP Swab	Dacron swab or ≥1 ml fluid in sterile tube	24 hr. @ 2° to 8°C.	
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea NAAT	Urine, throat, rectal, endocervix, urethra, or vaginal swab for CT/GC	Aptima Urine Specimen Collection Tube for urine. Aptima unisex kit for swab specimens	30 days @ room temp in Aptima tube	
Clearance: Salmonella/Shigella/STEC	Stool	Enteric Collection Kit	4 hr. max @ room temp	4 days @ 2-8°C
Culture for ID	Pure Isolate	Media slant	Stable @ room temp	
Enteric Culture	Stool	Enteric Collection Kit	4 hr. max @ room temp	4 days @ 2-8°C
Gastrointestinal NAAT	Stool	Cary Blair transport media	4 hr. max @ room temp	3 days @ 2-8°C
Gonorrhea Culture	Genital/Oral/Rectal	Martin-Lewis GC plate, CO ₂	24 hr @ RT°C plus CO ₂ Swabs submitted within 14 hrs	Required for medical-legal specimens
M. genitalium NAAT	Urine, Endocervical, Vaginal, Penile meatal	Aptima Urine collection/Unisex swab collection	30 days @ room temp in Aptima tube	
Shiga Toxin NAAT	Positive Broth	GN or MAC broth	24 hr @ 36°C, 4 days @ 4°C	
PARASITOLOGY				
Malaria & Blood Parasite Smear	Blood	Dried thin & thick smears or EDTA blood tube	EDTA blood must be received within one (1) hour	Call Laboratory for instructions
Ova & Parasite Screen	Stool	O & P collection kit	Stable @ 48 hours at room temp	
Parasite Arthropod ID	Arthropod	Clean container	Stable @ room temp	
Pinworm	Perianal area	Paddle Collection Slide	Stable @ room temp	



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PARASITOLOGY Continued				
Trichomonas NAAT	Urine	Aptima Urine Specimen Collection	30 days @ room temp in Aptima tube	
Worm Identification	Any source	Sterile saline - NOT FORMALIN	Stable @ room temp	Call Laboratory for instructions
IMMUNOLOGY				
Hepatitis/HIV Viral Load	Plasma, Serum (HCV VL only)	Purple top or	Whole blood 3 hrs at RT.	Freeze drawn-off plasma - 20°C
HIV Antibody Screen	Serum or Plasma	Serum separator tube	Allow to clot and refrigerate.	Serum preferred
RPR (Syphilis Screen)	Serum or Plasma	Serum separator tube	Allow to clot and refrigerate	Serum preferred
TP-PA (confirm Reactive RPRs)	Serum or Plasma	Serum separator tube	Allow to clot and refrigerate	Serum preferred
West Nile Virus Antibody IgG & IgM	Serum or Plasma	Serum separator tube / Sterile tube	Serum: 5 days @ 4°C or frozen @ -20°C	Specimens free from particulate matter.
MYCOLOGY				
Fungus Culture	Pure fungal isolate	Tubed mycology slants	Stable @ room temp	
PUBLIC HEALTH				
Title 17 and Cultures for ID	Pure culture isolates.	Solid tubed media. No plated media.	Stable @ room temp	Call Laboratory for instructions
VIROLOGY				
Enterovirus NAAT	CSF, Respiratory specimens	VTM	Refrigerate	
Flavivirus NAAT	Serum, Whole Blood, CSF	Blood tubes, Sterile containers	EDTA at 2-8°C. Others at ≤20°C	Amniotic and Urine for Zika
Herpes 1 & 2/VZV NAAT	Cutaneous/Mucocutaneous Lesion	VTM	RT for 48 hrs. 2-8°C up to 7 days	
Influenza virus NAAT	Lower/Upper Respiratory tract specimens	VTM	48 hours at 4°C	Freeze specimens if transport will be delayed beyond 48 hours
Measles virus NAAT	NP and Throat swabs / Urine	VTM	48 hours at 4°C	Call Laboratory prior to submission
Mumps virus NAAT	Buccal swab, NP, Throat	VTM	72 hours at 4°C	Call Laboratory prior to submission
Norovirus NAAT	Stool (preferred), Vomit	Sterile container	Refrigerate - DO NOT FREEZE	Call Laboratory for instructions
Respiratory Panel NAAT	NP	Sterile container, VTM	RT 4 hrs., 48 hours at 4°C, Frozen 30 days	
SARS-CoV-2 NAAT	NP, OP, Nasal swabs, Anterior nares Mid turbinate swabs	VTM	48 hours at 4°C	Freeze specimens if transport will be delayed beyond 48 hours

VTM=Viral Transport Media