



**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PHL SPECIMEN COLLECTION QUICK GUIDE**

TEST	SPECIMEN SOURCE	COLLECTION DEVICE	MAXIMUM SPECIMEN STABILITY	SPECIAL NOTES
<b>MYCOBACTERIOLOGY (AFB)</b>				
Acid Fast Culture/Smear	Sputum: 3-5 ml. minimum	Sterile Container	Store at 2° to 8°C. for up to 5 days. <b>DO NOT FREEZE.</b>	Store Blood (Yellow top), Bone Marrow, and CSF at Room Temperature and transport to laboratory as soon as possible
	Bronchial Wash: 3 ml. minimum			
	Gastric Aspirate: 5-10 ml.			
	Urine: 10-15 ml. minimum			
	Stool: 1 gram minimum			
	CSF: 2-3 ml. minimum			
	Body Fluid: 10 ml. minimum			
	Tissue: As much as possible			
Blood (SPS or Heparin) 5 ml.				
M. tuberculosis (GeneXpert®) NAAT	Sputum: 3-5 ml. minimum	Sterile Container	Store @ 2° to 8°C. for up to 7 days	
	Bronchial Wash: 3 minimum			
M. tuberculosis Susceptibility	Pure M. tuberculosis isolates	LJ Slants	Stable @ Room Temp.	
Mycobacterial Culture for ID	Pure Culture Isolate	LJ Slant	Stable @ Room Temp.	
QuantiFERON®-TB Gold	Whole blood to (1) Lithium-Heparin tube (Green top) or (4) QFT - Plus tubes	QFT-Plus tubes: (1) Nil, (1) TB1, (1) TB2, (1) Mitogen	QFT tubes are stable for up to 16 hours at Room Temperature.	Call Laboratory for transport instructions.
<b>BACTERIOLOGY</b>				
B. pertussis Culture	NP Swab	Dacron swab in Regan-Lowe media	24 hr. @ Room Temperature.	Collect at symptom start
B. pertussis NAAT	NP Swab	Dacron swab or ≥1 ml fluid in sterile tube	24 hrs. @ 2-8° C.	
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea NAAT	Urine, Throat Swab, Rectal Swab, Endocervix Swab, Urethral Swab, or Vaginal Swab	Aptima Urine Specimen Collection Tube for urine. Aptima unisex kit for swab specimens	30 days @ Room Temperature in Aptima tube	
Clearance: Salmonella/Shigella/STEC	Stool	Enteric Collection Kit (Cary-Blair)	4 days @ 2-8° C.	Fresh Stool: 4 hr. max @ Room Temp.
Culture for ID	Pure Culture Isolate	Media slant	Stable @ Room Temperature	
Enteric Culture	Stool	Enteric Collection Kit (Cary-Blair)	4 days @ 2-8° C.	Fresh Stool: 4 hr. max @ Room Temp.
Gastrointestinal NAAT	Stool	Cary Blair Transport Media	4 days @ RT 4 days @ 2-8° C.	
Gonorrhea Culture	Genital/Oral/Rectal Swabs	Martin-Lewis GC plate in CO2	24 hrs @ RT°C. (CO2) Swabs must be submitted within 14 hrs.	Culture may be required for medical- legal specimens
M. genitalium NAAT	Urine, Endocervical Swab, Vaginal Swab, Male Urethral Swab, Penile Meatal Swab	Aptima Urine collection/Unisex swab collection	30 days @ Room Temp. in Aptima tube	
Shiga Toxin NAAT	Culture isolate or Positive Broth	GN or MAC broth	24 hrs @ 36°C. 4 days @ 2-8°C.	Shiga Toxin NAAT will be run from fresh subculture.



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<b>PARASITOLOGY</b>				
Malaria & Blood Parasite Smear	Blood	Dried thin & thick smears or EDTA (Purple Top) blood tube	Transport EDTA blood within one (1) hour of collection	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.	
Trichomonas NAAT	Urine	Aptima Urine Specimen Collection	30 days @ Room Temp. in Aptima tube	
<b>IMMUNOLOGY</b>				
Hepatitis Viral Load	Plasma or Serum: 2 ml.	Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Acid Citrate Dextrose: (Yellow top) PPT tube: (White top)	Whole blood can be stored 2-30° C. and must be centrifuged within 6 hours of collection. Separate plasma/serum from RBC's.	Plasma preferred:  Draw off serum or plasma and freeze at -20°C.
		Serum collection tubes: SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top) Serum tube: (Red top)		
HIV Viral Load	Plasma: 2 ml.	Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Acid Citrate Dextrose: (Yellow top) PPT tube: (White top)	Whole blood can be stored 2-30° C. and must be centrifuged within 24 hours of collection. Separate plasma from RBC's.	Draw off plasma and freeze at -20°C.
West Nile Virus Antibody IgG & IgM	Serum: 2 ml.	SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top)	Serum: 5 days @ 4°C. or frozen @ -20°C.	Specimens free from particulate matter.
HIV Antibody Screen	Serum or Plasma: 100 µL minimum	Serum collection tubes: SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top) Serum tubes (Red top)	Allow to clot and refrigerate at 2-8°C for up to 7 days	Serum preferred: (Gold top)
		Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Sodium Citrate: (Light Blue top) Sodium/Lithium Heparin: (Green top) PST tube: (Mint Green top)		
HIV Antibody Confirmation	Serum or Plasma: 100 µL minimum	Serum collection tubes: SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top) Serum tubes:(Red top)	Allow to clot and refrigerate at 2-8°C for up to 7 days	Serum preferred: (Gold top)
		Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Sodium Citrate: (Light Blue top) Lithium Heparin:(Light Green top) PST tube:(Mint Green top)		
RPR (Syphilis Screen)	Serum or Plasma: 150 µL minimum	Serum collection tubes: SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top) Serum tubes: (Red top)	Serum: 5 days at 2-8°C. -20° C. if longer.	Serum is the specimen of choice for this test: (Gold top)
		Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Sodium Citrate: (Light Blue top) Sodium/Lithium Heparin:(Green top) Citrate-Phosphate-Dextrose (Yellow)	Plasma: 5 days at 2-8°C. Longer storage is not possible	



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<b>IMMUNOLOGY CONTINUED</b>				
TP-PA	Serum or Plasma: 50 µL minimum	Serum collection tubes: SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top) Serum tubes: (Red top)	5 days at 2-8°C. -20° C if longer.	Serum is the specimen of choice for this test: <b>(Gold top)</b>
		Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Sodium Citrate: (Light Blue top) Sodium/Lithium Heparin: (Green)	Plasma must be tested within 48 hours of collection	
VDRL	CSF: 150 µL minimum	Sterile, dry tube	5 days at 2-8°C.	Bloody specimens are not acceptable
<b>MYCOLOGY</b>				
Fungus Culture	Pure Fungal Isolate	Tubed Mycology slants	Stable @ Room Temp.	
<b>PUBLIC HEALTH</b>				
Title 17 and Cultures for ID	Pure Culture Isolates.	Solid tubed media. No plated media.	Stable @ Room Temp.	Call Laboratory for Instructions if needed.
<b>VIROLOGY</b>				
Enterovirus NAAT	CSF, Nasal Swab, Pharyngeal Swab, Throat Swab, Bronchial Alveolar Lavage, Tracheal Aspirate	VTM for swabs. Sterile container for Bronch Alveolar Lavage, Tracheal Aspirate, CSF	Refrigerate 2-8°C.	Requires LHD approval prior to submission
Flavivirus NAAT	Serum, Whole Blood (EDTA), CSF.  Amniotic and Urine are additional acceptable specimens for Zika	Serum collection tubes: SST tube: (Gold or Tiger top)	Store EDTA at 2-8°C.	Serum is the preferred diagnostic specimen. EDTA, CSF, Urine and Amniotic must be tested alongside patient matched serum specimen.  Requires LHD approval prior to submission
		Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top)	Serum, Urine, CSF, and Amniotic Fluid specimens at ≤20°C.	
Herpes 1 & 2/VZV NAAT	Cutaneous/Mucocutaneous Lesion	VTM	RT for 48 hrs. 2-8°C. for up to 7 days	
Influenza virus NAAT (Includes Seasonal Flu surveillance / subtyping)	NP swab	VTM	72 hours at 2-8°C.	Freeze specimens if transport will be delayed beyond 72 hours
Novel/Avian Influenza virus NAAT	NP swab/aspirate Nasal aspirate/wash Oropharyngeal swab. Bronchoalveolar lavage/wash Endotracheal Aspirate Sputum Conjunctival swab	VTM	72 hours at 2-8°C.	Freeze specimens if transport will be delayed beyond 72 hours. Requires LHD approval before testing.
Measles virus NAAT	NP and Throat Swabs, Urine: 10-50 ml.	VTM	48 hours at 2-8°C.	Requires LHD approval prior to submission
Mumps virus NAAT	Buccal Swab, NP Swab, Throat Swab	VTM	72 hours at 2-8°C.	Requires LHD approval prior to submission
Norovirus NAAT	Stool: 1 ml. Vomit (Not validated)	Sterile container	Stools collected without preservatives can be stored at 4°C. to -70°C.	Requires LHD approval before testing. Call Laboratory for instructions
Respiratory Panel NAAT	NP Swab	Sterile container, VTM	RT for 4 hrs. 48 hours at 4°C. ≤20°C. for 30 days	
SARS-CoV-2 NAAT	NP Swab, OP Swab, Nasal Swab, Anterior Nares Swab, Mid turbinate Swab	VTM	48 hours at 2-8°C.	Freeze specimens if transport will be delayed beyond 48 hours

RT= Room Temperature (15°-25°C). VTM=Viral Transport Media  
 Blood Collection Device Key: PPT = Plasma Preparation Tube PST = Plasma Separator Tube SST= Serum Separator Tube  
 Note for blood collection: Collect into one (1) of the approved blood collection devices only.