



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: 3-5 ml. minimum | Sterile Container | Store at 2° to 8°C. for up to 5 days. DO NOT FREEZE. | 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 | The testing of other sample types has not been validated and are not recommended for clinical decisions in case submitted. |
| 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. |
| BACTERIOLOGY | | | | |
| 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 CO ₂ | 24 hrs @ RT°C. (CO ₂) 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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| PARASITOLOGY | | | | |
| 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 | |
| IMMUNOLOGY | | | | |
| 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 | |
| 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: (Gold top) |
| | | Plasma collection tubes: EDTA: (Purple top) Sodium Citrate: (Light Blue top) Sodium/Lithium Heparin: (Green) | Plasma must be tested within 48 hours of collection | |



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| IMMUNOLOGY CONTINUED | | | | |
| VDRL | CSF: 150 µL minimum | Sterile, dry tube | 5 days at 2-8°C. | Bloody specimens are not acceptable |
| 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 if needed. |
| VIROLOGY | | | | |
| 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, Urine, CSF, and Amniotic Fluid specimens at ≤20°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) | | |
| | | Sterile container (Urine/Amniotic) | | |
| 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 |

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Table Key:

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.

Specimens not adhering to Maximum Specimen Stability guidelines are subject to rejection.