



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			
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.
	Induced/expectorated Sputum Sediments or raw Sputum			
	Bronch Wash/BAL : 3 ml. 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. Do not draw on a Friday or the day before a holiday.
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 hours 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.
Carba-R	Rectal/ Perirectal Swab./Isolate	Swab	15-28°C. 5 Days	



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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 @ Room Temp.	Refer to exp. date on label Submit for examination as soon as practical
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.	
Candida auris PCR	Human Axilla/Groin	Copan Diagnostics Eswab	10 Days 2-8°C.	
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. 72 hours at 4°C. Frozen ≤-15 °C or ≤-70°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:

BAL = Bronchoalveolar Lavage. 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.