

SURVEILLANCE SPECIMENS

Appropriate specimens for screening are:

- MRSA: Nasal Swab, Rectal/ Perineal Swab, Axilla Swab, Wound Swab, Swab from sites previously positive for MRSA, Sputum, Urine, Stool
- VRE: Rectal Swab, Perianal Swab, Swab from sites previously positive for VRE, Urine, Stool. Nasal swabs are not appropriate for VRE.
- ESBL and CPE/CRE (Carbapenemase): Rectal Swab, Wound Swab, Swab from sites previously positive, Urine, Stool, Endotracheal secretions or samples from other exit sites
- Group A Streptococcus: Throat Swabs, Nasal Swabs, Rectal Swabs, Vaginal Swabs and Skin Lesion Swabs

Record the target organism as well as body site on the requisition. e.g. Rectal for VRE.

Swabs should be collected and transported to the laboratory in the transport medium provided by the local LifeLabs Laboratory (charcoal or clear gel transport medium).

For MRSA, VRE and Group A Streptococcus a separate swab should be collected for each target organism requested.

Urines, stools, sputum, endotracheal secretions or samples from other exit sites should be collected in sterile containers. Stools in Cary Blair container (white lid and pink fluid) container are also acceptable.

Refrigerate urine, stool and sputum specimens at 2-8°C and submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.

Maintain all other specimens at room temperature and submit to laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection.