

COLLECTION OF STERILE FLUIDS (OTHER THAN BLOOD AND CSF)

Collection of Specimens for Microbiology

Proper transport and storage of specimens are prerequisites for reliable culture results. Ensure that the requisition and specimen are labeled with:

- patient's full name
- date of birth or health card number
- **source of specimen**
- date of collection
- time of collection

The examination requested should be specified on the requisition.

Information concerning anti-microbial therapy or allergy, pregnancy, clinical diagnosis, or underlying disease should also be noted.

Specimens should be transported promptly to LifeLabs Laboratory. Delays to processing, beyond the recommended acceptable holding times, will compromise culture results.

All specimens and body fluids are considered potentially hazardous. They should be treated as if capable of causing disease. Clinical information or patient history as provided by the physician determines the scope of the laboratory investigation by ensuring that all laboratory services are relevant or adequate for each clinical situation.

Microbiology Swab & Collection Containers



Sterile Container (90 mL)



PORT-A-CUL anaerobic transport system
(For anaerobic culture requests when small volume (3-5 ml) is received)



Aerobic Blue Anaerobic Gold Pediatric Pink
Bactec Blood Culture Bottles

COLLECTION OF STERILE FLUIDS (OTHER THAN BLOOD AND CSF)

Sterile Fluids (Other than Blood and CSF)

Aseptic collection (prior to antimicrobial therapy) technique is required in the sampling of sterile body sites. Fluids include: peritoneal, pleural and pericardial, joint, bile, and aspirates.

The patient's full name, date of birth or health card number, the source of the fluid and **date and time of collection** should be specified on the requisition **and** specimen container.

Fluids for culture should be submitted as described below. Provide any relevant clinical information on the requisition.

In order to avoid a needlestick injury in the laboratory, specimens including needles will not be accepted.

Request	Collection Container	Instructions
C&S Minimum Quantity ≥ 1 mL	<p>Routine: Sterile 90 mL container or red top tube.</p> <p>Collection of fluids into tubes with anticoagulant is not recommended but will be processed if received in a vacutainer with anticoagulant. Fluid collected in a tube with heparin (green top) is preferred over citrate (blue top) or EDTA (lavender top)</p> <p>If anaerobic workup is specifically requested: Anaerobic Transport system + screw top container (for Gram)</p> <p>Synovial, peritoneal, joint, ascites, pleural and pericardial fluids are acceptable for culture in BACTEC blood culture bottles. If sterile body fluids are received in BACTEC bottles, they should be accompanied by a specimen in a sterile container for Gram stain.</p> <p>Synovial/Joint Fluid: If < 2 mL, use Pediatric Blood Culture Bottle. If > 2 mL, use Aerobic Blood Culture Bottle. If anaerobic infection suspected, add an additional Anaerobic Blood Culture Bottle.</p> <p>Peritoneal Fluid, Pericardial Fluid, Pleural Fluid, Ascites Fluid: Inoculate a minimum of 3 mL (no more than 10mL) into an Aerobic and Anaerobic Blood Culture Bottle.</p>	Store and ship at Room Temperature Exception: Pericardial Fluids must be refrigerated at 2-8°C Ideally specimen should be submitted within 12 hours of collection. However within 24 hours of collection is acceptable.
TB Minimum Quantity ≥ 5 mL (if possible)	<p>Collect as much as possible (10-15 mL) in a sterile 90 mL container. Submit with completed PHL requisition.</p> <p>Small volumes ,5mL may be submitted. Submit with a completed PHL requisition.</p>	Store refrigerated at 2-8°C Submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours

COLLECTION OF STERILE FLUIDS (OTHER THAN BLOOD AND CSF)

Sterile Fluids (Other than Blood and CSF) – CON'T

Request	Collection Container	Instructions
Fungus (not CSF) Minimum Quantity ≥ 2 mL (if possible)	Sterile 90 mL container. Submit with completed PHL requisition.	Store at Room Temperature. Store refrigerated at 2-8°C if not shipped immediately. Submit to the laboratory WITHIN 24 hours of collection