









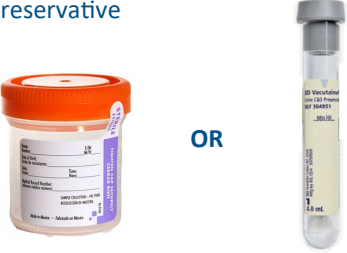
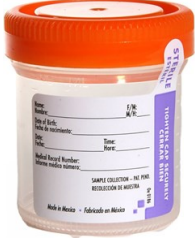

Microbiology Specimen Collection Guide

Test	Source	Collection Container	Stability & Transport	Additional Notes
C.difficile by PCR	Stool	Sterile Container without preservatives or media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 24 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 5 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Inhibition of the Xpert <i>C. difficile</i> Assay has been observed in the presence of the following substances: Zinc oxide paste and Vagisil® cream. <u>This test is valid only for unformed (liquid or soft) stool specimens collected from patients suspected of having <i>Clostridium difficile</i> infection (CDI).</u> Formed specimens and those from patients without symptoms will be rejected for testing.
Factor II & V by PCR	Whole Blood	Sodium Citrate (Lt. Blue) anticoagulant tubes or EDTA (Lav) 	Ambient 20-25°C: 24 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 15 days Frozen -20 - -40°C: 3 months	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Do not centrifuge or concentrate the blood sample by plasma removal. Patients on heparin therapy and blood transfusion patients may have blood specimens that potentially interfere with the PCR results and lead to invalid or erroneous results.
Flu/RSV by PCR	Nasopharyngeal or Nasal	BD Universal Viral Transport Media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 24 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 7 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.

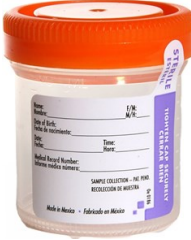

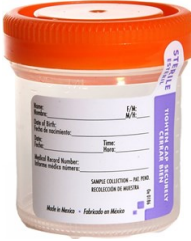
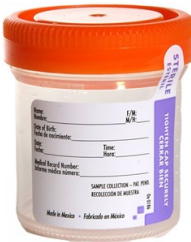


Test	Source	Collection Container	Stability & Transport	Additional Notes
Respiratory Panel RP2 by PCR	Nasopharyngeal or Nasal	BD Universal Viral Transport Media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 4 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 3 days Frozen -20 - -40°C: 30 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.
S. aureus/ MRSA Nasal Screen by PCR	Nasal	Eswab™, Copan Liquid Amies Elution Collection and Transport System 	Ambient 20-25°C: 24 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 5 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Inhibition of the SA Nasal Complete assay resulting in both invalid and false negative test results have been observed in the presence of the inhaled nasal steroids , Flonase and Nasonex.
Strep A by PCR	Throat	Eswab™, Copan Liquid Amies Elution Collection and Transport System 	Ambient 20-25°C: 48 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 6 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.
GI Pathogen Panel by PCR	Stool	Carry Blair transport media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 4 days Refrigerated 2-8°C: 4 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Minimum Volume: 200 µL (0.2 mL)

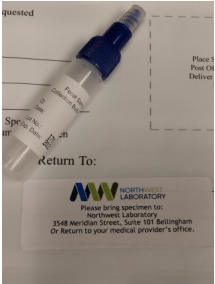


Test	Source	Collection Container	Stability & Transport	Additional Notes
Aerobic and/or Anaerobic Bacterial Cultures Or Fungal /Yeast Cultures	Wound, Throat, Eye, Ear	Eswab™, Copan Liquid Amies Elution Collection and Transport System 	Ambient 20-25°C: 48 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 48 hrs	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.
Aerobic Culture &/Or Yeast Culture	Urine	Sterile container without preservatives or media OR BD Vacutainer® plus C & S Preservative 	Sterile Cup Ambient 20-25°C: 2 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 24 hrs Preserved Ambient 20-25°C: 48 hrs	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.
Aerobic Culture &/Or Fungal Culture	Sputum	Sterile container without preservatives or media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 2 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 24 hrs	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. <u>Samples received on a swab will be rejected.</u>
Aerobic/ Anaerobic Bacterial Culture	Body Fluid	Sterile container without preservatives or media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 24 hrs Refrigerated 2-8°C: 24 hrs	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.



Test	Source	Collection Container	Stability & Transport	Additional Notes
Fungal Culture	Nails, Hair, or Skin	Sterile container without preservatives or media 	Ambient 20-25°C: 14 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source.
Mononucleosis	Whole Blood	EDTA (Lav) 	Ambient 20-25°C: 24 hrs	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Do not centrifuge or concentrate the blood sample by plasma removal. Must be tested within 24 hours.
H. pylori (Stool Ag)	Stool	Sterile container without preservatives or media 	Refrigerated 2-8°C: 72 hrs Frozen -20- -40°C: 30 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Refrigerate sample immediately upon collection. Antimicrobials, proton pump inhibitors and bismuth preparations are known to suppress H. pylori and ingestion of these prior to testing may cause false negative results. The test should be performed two weeks after discontinuing treatment.
Lactoferrin	Stool	Sterile container without preservatives or media 	Refrigerated 2-8°C: 14 days Frozen -20- -40°C: 30 days	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Refrigerate sample immediately upon collection.



Test	Source	Collection Container	Stability & Transport	Additional Notes
FIT Test (Occult Blood)	Stool	FIT Test Collection Kit 	Ambient 20-25°C: 6 days Refrigerated 2-8°C: 48 hrs	Label specimen with Full Name, DOB, Time & Date Collected and Specimen Source. Specific Collection Instructions are included in each kit.

Please call **360.527.4580** with any questions about specimen collection containers or stability.

If you need additional supplies please contact our Client Supply Coordinator

Phone: 360.527.4518

Email: supplies@nwlaboratory.com

