

Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

Bacillus anthracis (Anthrax) (Version 2)

Page 1 of 3

Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Pure culture/ Isolated colony	NA	NA	Use nutrient agar plate / slant.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: See Collection Procedures. • Transport: Ship specimens at room temperature. • Storage: Room temperature.
Cutaneous: ○ Vesicular (early) stage ○ Eschar (late) stage	At illness		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unroof vesicle and aspirate fluid, or collect with two sterile swabs. • Only use synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft for collection. • Insert swab (dacron) beneath the edge of the eschar, rotate swab or obtain an aspirate. 	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container. • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.
Gastro-intestinal			Collect stool (> 5 grams) into a leak- proof sealed container.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container. • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C.
Inhalational			Collect Cerebral Spinal Fluid (> 1ml); only if signs of meningitis occur.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container. • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C.
Postmortem Tissue	NA		Collect tissue pieces into a sterile container, and keep moist.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container. • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.

(Additional Specimen Types on page 2)

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Page 2 of 3

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Whole blood in EDTA (PCR only)	≤4 days post symptom onset	NA	Collect into lavender-top EDTA collection tubes.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Lavender-top EDTA tube. • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.
Sputum	At illness. For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.		Collect expectorated specimen into a sterile container.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Sterile leak-proof container. • Transport: Ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C.

General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Swab on wooden shaft.
- Did not obtain LHJ or DOH CDE approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments