Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions
Corynebacterium diphtheriae **Culture** (Version 2)

Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Nasopharyngeal Swab	NA	NA	• Swab the inflamed areas in the nasopharynx. • If membranes are present, remove and swab beneath the membrane.	Amies with charcoal	• **Rejection Criteria:** o Fungal contamination. o Expired transport media. • **Transport**: Ship ASAP. • Ship as Category B. • **Storage**: Room temperature.
Pieces of pseudo-membrane	NA	NA	Aseptically remove pieces of pseudo-membrane and place in a tube containing sterile saline (0.85%)	Sterile saline (0.85%) in tube or cup	• **Transport device**: Sterile leak-proof tube or cup. • **Rejection Criteria:** o Fungal contamination. o Expired transport media. • **Transport**: Ship overnight on ice packs. • Ship as Category B. • **Storage**: Store at 2-8°C before shipping.

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements. NA: Not Applicable *Last Revised: June 2016*

Throat Swab	NA	NA	Swab the throat then place the swab in Amies with charcoal and parafilm the cap.	Amies with charcoal	• Transport: Ship ASAP. • Storage: Room temperature • Category B
Cutaneous	NA	NA	Swab the infected area of skin then place the swab in Amies with charcoal and parafilm the cap.	Amies with charcoal	• Transport: Ship ASAP. • Storage: Room temperature • Category B

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

- 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.
- Reason for testing at WAPHL.

Collection kit availability

- Nasopharyngeal swab: Available. Please contact your Local Health Jurisdiction (LHJ).
- Pieces of pseudo-membrane: Not available.

Comments