

# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## AFB, Culture (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Sputum, expectorated or induced	Early morning preferred	8-24hr intervals (24hr preferred). Collect 3 consecutive specimens.	Instruct the patient to cough deeply to produce sputum not spit. <b>Collect</b> minimum of 3ml. <b>Transport</b> in sterile leak-proof 50ml container.	NA	Ship each specimen as collected. Do not batch. <b>Rejection Criteria:</b> Sputum/respiratory specimens over 5 days old. <b>Transport:</b> Ship at room temperature. If previously refrigerated, ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. <b>Storage:</b> If shipping is delayed, refrigerate at 2-8°C.
Respiratory, Bronchoalveolar lavage, brush or wash; endotracheal, transtracheal aspirate	NA	NA	<b>Collect</b> in sputum trap. <b>Transfer</b> to and <b>transport</b> a sterile 50 ml plastic transport container. <b>Place</b> brush in 50ml sterile container with 5ml of sterile saline.		
Abscess			<b>Collect</b> abscess fluid material into a sterile 50ml container.		
Blood			Aseptically <b>collect</b> 10ml of whole blood in a 10ml yellow-top collector tube.		<b>Transport:</b> Ship at room temperature. Do not refrigerate or freeze.
Body Fluids			Aseptically <b>collect</b> 10ml of fluid in a sterile container. No swabs. <b>Transport</b> in a sterile leak-proof 50 ml conical tube.		Ship each specimen as collected. <b>Transport:</b> Ship at room temperature. If previously refrigerated, ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. <b>Storage:</b> If shipping is delayed, refrigerate at 2-8°C.
Bone marrow aspirate			Use a blood collector tube, and mix contents of tube after collection. <b>Transport</b> in a 10ml yellow-top collector tube containing SPS or sterile leak-proof 50 ml conical tube.		Ship each specimen as collected at room temperature. <b>Do not</b> refrigerate or freeze.

(Additional Specimen Types on page 2)

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CSF	NA	NA	Aseptically collect 2-3 ml of CSF. <b>Transport</b> in a sterile leak-proof 50 ml conical tube.	NA	Ship each specimen as collected. <b>Transport:</b> Ship at room temperature. If previously refrigerated, ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. <b>Storage:</b> If shipping is delayed, refrigerate at 2-8°C. <b>Do not</b> freeze.
Stool / Feces			<b>Collect</b> in a sterile leak-proof container. <b>Transport</b> in a 50ml conical tube. <b>Do not</b> use holding or transport medium or preservatives.		<b>Transport:</b> Ship at room temperature or ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs; <b>Must</b> be shipped in double cardboard mailers. <b>Do not</b> freeze. Specimen <b>must</b> be received at WAPHL within 24 hours of collection. <b>Call</b> TB Unit before shipping.
Gastric wash or lavage	Collect early morning before patient's first meal and while still in bed	3 consecutive days	Perform lavage with 25-50ml of chilled sterile distilled water. <b>Collect</b> and <b>transport</b> in sterile 50ml conical tube. Neutralize with 100mg sodium carbonate within 1 hour of collection.		Ship each specimen as collected. <b>Transport:</b> Ship at room temperature or ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. <b>Do not</b> freeze.
Tissue / Lymph node	NA		Aseptically <b>collect</b> during surgery or cutaneous biopsy procedure.	sterile saline	<b>Transport</b> in a 50ml conical tube, add 2-3 ml sterile saline to tissue. <b>Do not</b> refrigerate or freeze.
Urine	First Morning specimen	3 consecutive days	<b>Collect</b> 40ml midstream in a sterile container.	NA	Ship each specimen as collected. <b>Transport:</b> Ship cold (2-8°C) in a 50ml conical tube on ice packs. <b>Do not</b> freeze.

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

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Not following listed Collection Procedures and/or S&H Methods.
- **Sputum / Respiratory specimens:** over 5 days old.
- **Stool / Feces:** over 24 hours old; shipped in transport medium or preservatives.

**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**

- Available, please contact the WAPHL Mailroom for TB specimen collection kits.  
**Telephone** (206) 418-5579  
**Fax** (206) 418-5405  
**Email** [p hl.mailroom@doh.wa.gov](mailto:p hl.mailroom@doh.wa.gov)
- The WAPHL does not provide blood collection tubes.

**Comments**

- Sputum, Gastric wash or lavage, Urine: Collect 3 consecutive specimens, ship as soon as possible, do not batch.
- Blood: The WAPHL does not provided blood collection tubes.
- Stool / Feces: Prior arrangement must be made with the WAPHL TB laboratory before shipping specimen.