# Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

## AFB, Smear (Version 1)

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

(Additional Specimen Types on page 2)

*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  
Last Revised: March 2015
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CSF</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>Aseptically collect 2-3 ml of CSF. <strong>Transport</strong> in a sterile leak-proof 50 ml conical tube.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>• Ship each specimen as collected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stool / Feces</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td><strong>Collect</strong> in a sterile leak-proof container. <strong>Transport</strong> in a 50ml conical tube. <strong>Do not</strong> use holding or transport medium or preservatives.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>• <strong>Transport:</strong> Ship at room temperature. If previously refrigerated, ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gastric wash or lavage</td>
<td>Collect early morning before patient’s first meal and while still in bed</td>
<td>3 consecutive days</td>
<td>Perform lavage with 25-50ml of chilled sterile distilled water. <strong>Collect</strong> and <strong>transport</strong> in sterile 50ml conical tube. Neutralize with 100mg sodium carbonate within 1 hour of collection.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>• <strong>Transport:</strong> o Ship at room temperature or ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs. o <strong>Must</strong> be shipped in double cardboard mailers. o <strong>Do not</strong> freeze. o Specimen <strong>must</strong> be received at WAPHL within 24 hours of collection. o <strong>Call</strong> TB Unit before shipping.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tissue / Lymph node</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td></td>
<td>Aseptically <strong>collect</strong> during surgery or cutaneous biopsy procedure. <strong>Sterile saline</strong> <strong>Transport</strong> in a 50ml conical tube, add 2-3 ml sterile saline to tissue. <strong>Do not</strong> refrigerate or freeze.</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>• Ship each specimen as collected.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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*Preferred specimen type, if applicable  **All specimens must be shipped meeting IATA, OSHA, and USPS requirements.  NA: Not Applicable  Last Revised: March 2015*
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

- Yes, contact the WAPHL Mailroom for TB specimen collection kits.
  - **Telephone** (206) 418-5579
  - **Fax** (206) 418-5405
  - **Email** phl.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.