

Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

Varicella zoster virus, Culture (VZV, Cx) (Version 1)

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Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Vesicular Fluid	At illness. For optimal isolation, collect within 72 hours of symptom onset.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft. • Immediately after collection, place swab directly in 2-3 ml of Viral Transport Media (VTM). • Minimum volume: 2 ml of VTM. 	VTM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Sterile container. • Rejection Criteria: Not transported in VTM. Swab on wooden shaft. • Transport: Refrigerate and ship to arrive at WAPHL during business hours within 72 hrs of collection. Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B. • Storage: Refrigerate. If arriving at WAPHL after 72 hrs of collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C.

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

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- 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, second identifier, and date of onset.
- 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

Not available.

Comments