

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
SPECIMEN CRITERIA AND TESTING INFORMATION
12-12-17**

MYCOLOGY						
Exam	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Turn Around Time
Fungus Smear and Culture (FSC) Other source (except blood) CPT 87102	Sputum, Bronchial Wash, Bronchial Lavage, Nebulized Sputum	5-10 ml	<2 hour at RT° >2 hours at 4°C	<2.5 ml could lead to false negative results 24 hour pooled sputum and saliva unacceptable; collect early morning specimen	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Specimens processed daily (M-F). Smears reported within one business day ³ Note: Smears not performed on blood and bone marrow
	CSF	2-3 ml	RT	DO NOT refrigerate <1.0 ml could lead to false negative results	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	
	Body Fluids	3 ml, fluid may be collected in a SPS or Heparin tube to prevent clotting	RT	DO NOT refrigerate <2.5 ml may lead to false negative results Swabs dipped in fluid are unacceptable	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Positive cultures-preliminary within 7 business days, final report within 4-6 weeks
	Urine	10 ml	<2 hour at RT >2 hours at 4°C		FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	
	Tissue	1 cm ³ in sterile container with 2-3 drops sterile preservative free saline	RT	<1 cm ³ could lead to false negative results	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	

MYCOLOGY (CONT)

Exam	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Turn Around Time
Fungus Smear and Culture (FSC) Blood CPT 87103	Blood	3-8 ml	RT DO NOT refrigerate	SPS or Heparin acceptable; EDTA or clotted blood unacceptable Use Isolator tube for Dimorphic Fungi	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	
	Bone marrow	1--3 ml heparinized syringe or SPS	RT DO NOT refrigerate	<1ml may lead to false negative results Clotted bone marrow is unacceptable	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Modified Field stain available on request for Histoplasma
Abscess aspirate	>1.0 ml optimal	<2 hour at RT	Abscess aspirate	< 1.0 ml could lead to false negative results	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Abscess aspirate
Swab of wound, mouth, or abscess material		Must contain visible amount of exudate	RT if swab is in culturette or sterile heparin tube	< 0.5 ml could lead to false negative results	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	
Dry swab from abscess or any body site		NA		Unacceptable specimen not tested	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	
Fungus Smear and Culture (FSC) Hair, skin, nail CPT 87102	Skin, hair, nail	Skin scraping visible specimen at least the size of pencil eraser, Hair-10-12 plucked hairs Nail- at least 5 pieces of nail or clippings	RT	Collect skin, hair, or nail in dry sterile container	FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Calcofluor smear <24 hrs, M-F Fungal culture- results in 4 weeks

MYCOLOGY (CONT)						
Exam	Specimen	Volume	Hold Temp & Time	Comment	Packaging & Shipping	Turn Around Time
Fungus isolate for ID (FIDM or FIDY) CPT 87106	Culture growth in sealed, tubes, plates or flasks	NA	RT		If C. immitis is suspected: FedEx (Category A; PI 620) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ Other molds or yeast: FedEx (Category B; PI 650) Dedicated Medical Courier ¹ MOT exemption ²	Preliminary report within 7 business days, final report within 4-6 weeks

- (1) Dedicated medical courier exemption: When shipped by a dedicated medical courier, patient specimens which are not classified as Category A (e.g. blood for Ebola testing) are not regulated under DOT’s Hazardous Materials Regulations. They may be packaged without using specialized packaging system. Place leak proof primary container in a leak proof secondary container with biohazard label (standard zip lock bag with biohazard label and outer sleeve for specimen requisition will suffice). Place the primary and secondary container in a paper bag labeled with our laboratory address and the consignee’s address. **CULTURES OR CATEGORY A PATIENT SPECIMENS ARE REGULATED AND MUST BE PACKAGED ACCORDINGLY.**
- (2) MOT exemption: Clinical specimens (other than Category A) may be transported by in a personal vehicle to directly support a business which is not transportation; health care providers, patients, or laboratories would qualify for transporting clinical specimens as a material of trade exempt from DOT regulations. MOT does not apply to drivers employed in business of transportation (e.g. cab driver, bus driver or contract courier). Primary container must contain less than 0.5 L. Multiple primary containers (<4L total) may be transported in leak proof outer container containing sufficient absorbent material to absorb entire contents of inner packaging. **CULTURES CANNOT and CATEGORY A SPECIMENS (E.G. Ebola blood) cannot be transported as material of trade; they must be categorized (e.g. Category A or B) and packaged/labeled accordingly (e.g. PI 602 and 650 respectively).**
- (3) Specimens received by 10:00 am will be resulted same day if possible or within 24 hours (excluding weekends & holidays). **If results are required before the next test day STAT testing must be ordered verbally and in writing.**

Quality Assurance

Adherence to the specimen selection, quantity, storage and transportation criteria stated above are critical to ensuring the accuracy and usefulness of diagnostic testing results. **Test requests with information that is missing, incorrect or different from information on specimen and/or specimens submitted to the laboratory that do not meet above specified criteria could result in delayed testing and specimen rejection.** The laboratory will notify submitters upon receipt of specimens that do not meet specified testing criteria. Please contact the laboratory for concerns regarding any quality assurance issues including specimen quality and testing turnaround times.

Abbreviations

BAL Broncho-alveolar lavage
C&S Culture and Sensitivity
CPT Current Procedural Terminology
EDTA Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
Hrs Hours
ml milliliter
MOT Material of Trade
NA Not applicable
RT Room temperature

References

Koneman, E. W. 2005. Color Atlas and Textbook of Diagnostic Microbiology, 6th ed. Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, Philadelphia, PA.
Larone, D. H. 2011. Medically Important Fungi: A Guide to Identification, 5th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.
Versalovic, J., K. C. Carroll, G. Funke, J. H. Jorgensen, M. L. Landry, and D. W. Warnock (ed.). 2015. Manual of Clinical Microbiology, 11th ed. ASM Press, Washington, D.C.