

BODY FLUID, TISSUE, and WOUND SPECIMENS (includes Gram stain)			
If the specimen is:			
Normally sterile BODY FLUID CAPD Dialysate Joint Knee Pericardial Pleural Synovial ↓ Collect in: Sterile container Blood culture bottles Then order: BODY FLUID CULTURE	Amniotic Ascites Bile Peritoneal Thoracentesis ↓ Sterile container TISSUE CULTURE	A Piece of TISSUE ↓ Sterile container WOUND CULTURE, DEEP	ABSCESS ASPIRATE <i>(Specimen collected from a deep source, not exposed to air. This culture covers anaerobic bacteria.)</i> ↓ Sterile container WOUND CULTURE, SUPERFICIAL
BITE BOIL CYST DRAINAGE EXUDATE LESION SKIN <i>(Specimen collected from a source exposed to air. This culture does not cover anaerobic bacteria.)</i> ↓ Collect in: Sterile container or Aerobic/anaerobic transport swab			

AFB CULTURES					
If the specimen source is:					
ABSCESS ASPIRATE DRAINAGE EXUDATE LESION SKIN TISSUE Collect in: Sterile container Then order: AFB CULTURE	BLOOD ↓ Request Isolator tube from Micro lab. Min. vol. adult = 7ml Min. vol. Peds = 1ml AFB CULTURE, BLOOD	BODY FLUID ↓ Sterile container AFB CULTURE, BODY FLUID	BONE MARROW ↓ Request 1.5ml Isolator tube from Micro lab. AFB CULTURE, BONE MARROW	RESPIRATORY ↓ Sputum: min. vol. = 5 ml Sterile container AFB CULTURE, RESPIRATORY	URINE ↓ Sterile container AFB CULTURE, URINE
Notes: Specimens are processed 7 days/week. Specimens in the lab by 3PM each day are processed that day and direct smear results are					

FUNGUS CULTURES							
If the specimen source is:							
ABSCESS ASPIRATE BITE BOIL CYST EXUDATE HAIR LESION NAIL SKIN Then order: FUNGUS CULTURE	BLOOD ↓ Request Isolator tube from Micro lab. Min. vol. adult = 7ml Min. vol. Peds = 1ml FUNGUS CULTURE, BLOOD	BODY FLUID ↓ Sterile container FUNGUS CULTURE, BODY FLUID	BONE MARROW ↓ Submit specimen in syringe, sterile container or 1.5 ml Isolator tube (request from Micro lab) FUNGUS CULTURE, BONE MARROW	CSF ↓ Min vol.=5ml Order on Tube #2 FUNGUS CULTURE, CSF	GENTAL ↓ Aerobic/Anaerobic transport swabs FUNGUS CULTURE, GENTAL	RESPIRATORY ↓ Sterile container FUNGUS CULTURE, RESPIRATORY	TISSUE ↓ Sterile container FUNGUS CULTURE, TISSUE
If suspect organism is:	Then order:		On this body site:		Comments:		
Dermatophyte	DERMATOPHYTE SCREEN		Hair, skin, nail		Request media from Micro lab @ 628-4000.		
Nocardia	NOCARDIA CULTURE (Order by source; eg. Nocardia Culture, Respiratory)		Blood, body fluid, respiratory				

BLOOD CULTURES:
 Collect using Blood Culture Collection kits w/instructions (available from Central Supply). Do not place labels on the bottom of bottles.

**MICROBIOLOGY
 SPECIMEN COLLECTION
 and ORDERING GUIDELINES**

The following tests are offered in the clinical microbiology laboratory. Use of specific transport media or collection kits is noted when applicable. Center orderable tests are **Bolded**.

Supply Name	Stocked In:
Aerobic/Anaerobic transport swabs	Central Supply
Blood culture bottles (aerobic & anaerobic)	Central Supply
<i>Bordetella</i> collection kit	Microbiology Laboratory
GC/Chlamydia transport tubes (male/female)	Microbiology Laboratory
Isolator™ blood tubes (adult & pediatric)	Microbiology Laboratory
Gardia and Cryptosporidium FA (collection kits)	Central Supply
Sterile swabs without transport media	Central Supply
Sterile containers (cups, tubes)	Central Supply
Universal transport media (UTM)	Microbiology Laboratory

Department of Pathology
 Microbiology/Immunology Laboratory
 Phone: (804) 628-4000
 www.pathology.vcu.edu

CSF PATHOGENS			
If suspect diagnosis is:	Then order:	On this body site:	Comments:
Bacterial meningitis	CSF CULTURE	CSF; minimum volume = 1 ml	Order on Tube #2; Gram stain reported w/in 1 hr
Fungal meningitis	FUNGUS CULTURE, CSF CRYPTOCOCCUS Ag CSF	CSF; minimum volume = 0.4 ml	Order on Tube #2 Order on Tube #2; STAT testing performed 24/7.

GENITAL PATHOGENS: Commonly ordered tests to detect genital pathogens			
For <i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i> and <i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> by DNA amplification, order: CHLAMYDIA by DNA AMPLIFICATION GC by DNA AMPLIFICATION > Not for test of cure or medical legal cases			
Females: Endocervical specimen. Collect with female endocervical collection kit. Males: Urethral swab. Collect with male collection swab. Urines: Use sterile, plastic, preservative-free container. Collect the first 15-20 ml of urine after patient has not voided in 1 hour. Refrigerate or send on ice if not transported immediately. Urines in boric acid transport tubes are unacceptable.			
For diagnosis of:	Then order:	On this body site:	Comments:
Chlamydia	CHLAMYDIA TRACH CULT	Genital or other swab specimens, tissue Other body fluids	Use only plastic shaft swabs; transport in Universal Transport Media; submit on ice . Sterile container; submit on ice .
Gonorrhea	GONOCOCCUS CULTURE	Genital sites, eye, throat	Request Thayer Martin agar from lab and inoculate plate at bedside.
Group B streptococci	STREP B SCREEN by DNA AMPLIFICATION	Vaginal/rectal swab	
Bacterial vaginosis	BV GRAM STAIN	Vaginal swab	
Trichomas vaginalis	TRICHOMAS CULTURE	Vaginal, urethral	Use cotton swab to collect. Transport using InPouch TV (available from Micro lab).

RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS: Commonly ordered tests to detect respiratory pathogens.			
If suspect diagnosis is:	Then order:	On this body site:	Comments:
Bacterial pneumonia Does not include <i>Legionella</i>	RESPIRATORY CULTURE RESPIRATORY CULTURE, QUANTITATIVE	Sputum, endotrach aspirate, bronch wash BAL, bronch brush	Sterile containers; place bronch brush in sterile tube w/ 1ml sterile saline.
β-hemolytic streptococci (Strep pharyngitis)	STREP A Ag	Throat swab	Use only Rayon/Dacron swab in liquid or modified Stuart's media.
	STREP A THROAT CULTURE		Only β-hemolytic Streptococcus group A and <i>Arcanobacterium haemolyticum</i> are reported.
Pertussis (whooping cough)	BORDETELLA FA, BORDETELLA CULTURE	Nasopharyngeal swab, aspirate, or wash	Request collection instructions/kit from Micro lab @ 628-4000
<i>Mycoplasma pneumonia</i>	MYCOPLASMA, IgM	Red top (SST) tube	STAT testing performed 24/7.
<i>Legionella pneumonia</i>	LEGIONELLA URINE Ag	5 ml urine in sterile container	STAT testing performed 24/7.
	LEGIONELLA CULTURE	Sputum, endotrach aspirate, bronch wash BAL, bronch brush	
Influenza A or B, RSV	RSV, INFLUENZA A & B DIRECT TESTING	Nasopharyngeal aspirate or wash, submit in a sterile container. NP swab provided in virus collection kit; after collection place in UTM.	Direct testing performed only during RSV and influenza peak prevalence Also, order Virology culture. Transport ALL specimens on ice.
Mycobacterial	AFB CULTURE, RESPIRATORY	Sputum, endotrach aspirate, BAL, bronch wash, bronch brush	Sputum: min. vol. = 5 ml
Fungal	FUNGUS CULTURE, RESPIRATORY	Sputum, endotrach aspirate, BAL, bronch wash, mouth, sinus aspirate	

STOOL PATHOGENS: Commonly ordered tests to detect stool pathogens. Stool cultures and parasitological exams are not performed on patients who have been hospitalized > 3 days.			
For diagnosis of:	Then order:	On this body site:	Comments:
Salmonellosis, shigellosis, campylobacteriosis. Shiga-toxin producing <i>E. coli</i> (eg. O157:H7)	STOOL CULTURE	Stool	Sterile container
<i>Vibrio</i> infection	STOOL CULTURE, <i>Vibrio</i>		Sterile container Order in addition to STOOL CULTURE
<i>Yersinia</i> infection	STOOL CULTURE, <i>Yersinia</i>		Sterile container Order in addition to STOOL CULTURE
Pinworm	PINWORM EXAM	Submit scotch tape preparation on glass slide or Swube pinworm paddle.	
Giardiasis	GIARDIA FA	Stool NOTE: Ova and parasites are no longer routinely performed. Call the micro lab @ 628-4000	Para-Pak collection kit
Cryptosporidiosis	CRYPTOSPORIDIUM FA		
Special request required for <i>Microsporidium, Cyclospora & Isospora</i>			
For diagnosis of:	Then order:	On this body site:	Comments:
MALARIA	MALARIA SMEAR	BLOOD; EDTA tube	Submit dedicated tube Transport to Microbiology lab immediately.