

Geisinger

Geisinger Medical Laboratories

Microbiology specimen collection
and transport guide

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Client services: **800-695-6491**
Fax supply requests to: **570-271-5660**

The resources of a national laboratory
with the convenience of local service

geisingermedicallabs.com

Eswab

Use for swab collection of culture specimens.

- Routine fungal and bacterial cultures
- GC¹ culture
- Group B Strep culture/PCR
- Vaginosis Panel, PCR

¹Use for culture of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC) on specimens collected from rectal and throat sources.

Recommended for all specimen types when sexual assault or abuse are under consideration and for specimens from prepubescent females (<14 y.o.).



Molecular testing swab

Use for swab collections for PCR screening tests.

- Group B Strep culture/PCR
- MRSA nasal screen, PCR
- *Staphylococcus aureus* nasal screen, PCR
- VRE rectal screen, PCR



Minitip swab

• Use for cultures collected from the nasopharynx, sinus or male urethra. Place swab into Eswab transport media (see above).



Group A Strep combo swab

Use for rapid Strep and confirmatory Group A Strep testing.

- Do not use for culture.
- Use for throat specimens only.
- Collect double swab. Return white dacron swab to transport for rapid strep screen. Break off blue/green flocced swab in the Eswab transport media for Group A Strep PCR confirmation/testing.



Anaerobic transport medium (ATM)

Use for transport of tissues, pus and aspirates for anaerobic culture.

- Swabs are not recommended.
- Do not push specimen into the gel. Place on top.
- If ATM is unavailable in outpatient settings, use an Eswab.

Toothbrush

Use for the collection of skin and scalp scrapings.

- Fungal culture, dermatology



Universal transport media

Use to maintain viability of viruses, *Chlamydia*, *Mycoplasma* and *Ureaplasma* for culture and PCR assays.

- HSV/VZV, PCR
- Respiratory Pathogen Panel, PCR
- Influenza/RSV/SARS-COV2, PCR
- SARS-COV2, PCR (COVID only assay)

Note: Transport 2-8°C

If swab collection, use only swab provided in packaging.

For fluid collections, add equal parts fluid to transport.

For sputum, tracheal aspirates, or bronchial washings/lavages, add 1 mL to transport.

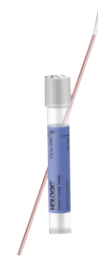
Do not use for transport of CSF specimens.



Hologic Direct Load Tube

Use for SARS-COV2, PCR, (COVID) only collections.

- Use only swab provided in packaging.
- Outpatient, routine testing from nasal turbinate.



Aptima molecular transport kits

Use for *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Trichomonas vaginalis* testing.

- Use for collection/transport of male urethra, female endocervical, throat and rectal specimens.

Note: Use only sample collection swab included in kit.



- Use for urine transport.

Note: Add urine to fill window.



- Use for collection/transport of female vaginal specimens only.

Note: Use only sample collection swab included in kit.



Stool C&S medium

Use for transport of stool specimens for culture, PCR and antigen testing.

- Fill container to red line and mix thoroughly. Do not overfill.
- Transport 2-8°C
- Gastrointestinal Pathogen Panel, PCR with culture
- Regional Parasite Antigen detection (*Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*)



Total-fix medium

Use for stool transport for Ova and Parasite testing (via Quest Labs).

- Fill container to red line and mix thoroughly. Do not overfill.
- Ova and parasite
- *Cyclospora*
- *Isospora*
- Microsporidia



Pinworm paddle (Swube tube)

Use for the collection of specimens for the detection of pinworms.

- Press the "sticky" side of the paddle against the perianal folds during the night when pinworms are most active.



Routine blood culture

For adults and children weighing >25 kg, collect 10 mL of blood in each bottle. For children weighing <25 kg, consult GML Microbiology Collection Instructions at geisingermedicallabs.com/microapp/index.shtml or contact Client Services to determine appropriate collection volume.



Sterile container

Use for the submission of specimens when no other specific transport is indicated.

- Stool for *Clostridium difficile*, PCR (transport 2-8°C)
- Stool for fecal lactoferrin, EIA
- Sputum/tracheal aspirate/bronchial specimens for bacterial, fungal or AFB culture
- Fluid or tissue specimens for bacterial, fungal or AFB culture
- Stool/urine for viral culture (transport 2-8°C)
- Urine culture collection when less than 4 mL is collected or <20 mL collected if shared specimen (transport 2-8°C). Use urine transport device for all other urine culture specimens.



Urine culture transport

Use for urine culture only.

- For specimens ≥4 mL
- For small volume urine collection, transport in sterile container (see above)
- Use urine transfer straw to fill vacutainer.
- Transport must be filled ASAP after collection; within 20 minutes of collection, preferred.



Sterile tubes

Use for transport of fluids when no other specific transport is indicated.

- Bacterial/fungal AFB cultures
- CSF for HSV or Meningitis/Encephalitis Panel, PCR (transport 2-8°C)

