

Refer to the [MLabs Test Catalog](#) for specific specimen type and volume requirements for a particular test or tests.

Aerobic Transport (BD ESwab Kit)

A sterile package containing a polypropylene screw-cap tube filled with 1 mL of liquid Amies transport medium and a specimen collection swab that has a tip flocked with soft nylon fiber. To use, remove the cap and touch swab to specimen site and obtain as much specimen as possible. Insert the swab into the tube and bend the swab shaft at the marked breakpoint against the tube to break the shaft. Replace cap on tube and secure tightly. Specimens include throat, wound, and urogenital specimens. Do **not** use for Bordetella.



Anaerobic Transport

A sterile, glass, screw-cap tube containing oxygen-free gas, an agar medium, and oxygen indicator. Discard if the agar is purple. To use for fluid or tissue, keep the tube upright and carefully open cap. Layer fluid or tissue on top of the medium and screw the cap on tightly. Anaerobic specimens include tissue, aspirate, wound, abscess, body fluids, endometrium, trans-tracheal aspirates, and suprapubic urine.



Urine C & S Transport Kit

A gray top, vacutainer tube containing Lyophilized Urine Maintenance Formula, which prevents the proliferation of bacteria in specimens that must remain at room temperature for an extended period prior to transport to the laboratory. To use, place the straw of the transport device into the urine specimen so that the tip of the straw is below the surface of the urine and close to the bottom of the urine container. Push the tube into the plastic holder portion of the transfer device so that the metal puncture point pierces the gray stopper of the tube. Urine will flow into the tube via vacuum pressure; hold the straw in position until the urine stops flowing into the tube. Shake vigorously to mix. Note: this kit is only for microbiology urine cultures; the specimen **cannot** be used for urinalysis or any urine chemistry test.



Sterile Container

A sterile round plastic cup with screw cap. Place specimen in container and screw the cap on tightly. Specimens include tissue, fluids, aspirates, urine, sputum, bronchial washing, nails, scrapings, foreign bodies, stools and rectal swabs for rotavirus and adenovirus antigens, and stools for *Clostridium difficile*.



Blood or Sterile Body Fluids Transport Set (Aerobic & Anaerobic bottles for Bacteria and Yeast)

Two (2) BD BACTEC bottles (blue & purple caps) containing liquid broth or detergent to be used as a set, or individually (blue cap) for aerobic-only cultures. For pediatric or low volume draws, use only the aerobic bottle. To use, wipe stopper with 70% alcohol, allow to dry, and inject an appropriate amount of blood: Aerobic (blue) BACTEC Plus Aerobic/F bottle - Adult: 8-10 mL; Pediatric: 1-3 mL; for sterile body fluids (e.g., peritoneal or dialysate fluid): 1-10 mL and Anaerobic (purple) BACTEC Lytic/10 bottle - Adult: 8-10 mL.



Adult (Large) Isolator Tube

A 10 mL glass tube, with yellow and black stopper, containing 1 mL liquid. To use, wipe stopper with 70% alcohol, allow to dry, fill with blood and invert to mix. Use for Blood Culture for AFB or Fungus.



Pediatric (Small) Isolator Tube

A 1.5 mL glass tube, with yellow stopper, containing a small amount of fluid. To use wipe stopper with 70% alcohol, allow to dry fill with blood and invert to mix. Use for Blood Culture for AFB or Fungus, and Bone Marrow Cultures.



Swube Tube Transport (Pinworm Paddle)

A plastic paddle with glue on one side sealed in a plastic container. To use, touch sticky side of paddle to skin around perianal area and return paddle to plastic container.



Ova and Parasite Kit (O&P) – ECOFIX™

A single plastic vial with green screw cap, containing liquid. To use, fill vial with stool to red line using a tongue depressor or the spoon attached to lid of vial. Cap tightly and mix or shake well until stool is completely emulsified. Use for Ova and Parasite exams including Cryptosporidia and Microsporidia Exams. Do **not** use for *Clostridium difficile*, Giardia Antigen, or Fungus Culture.



Stool Culture Transport (Cary Blair)

A single plastic vial with orange screw cap, containing non-nutritive, stool transport solution. To use, fill vial with stool to red line (30 mL) using a tongue depressor or the spoon attached to lid of vial. Cap tightly and mix, or shake well, until stool is completely emulsified. Use for bacterial or fungal stool cultures, gastrointestinal pathogen panel, giardia antigen, fecal leukocyte screen, and shiga-like toxin testing. Do **not** use for *Clostridium difficile*.



OCS Collection Kit for Fecal Occult Blood (IFOB) (Chemistry Lab)

Collect feces from the sample collection paper or specimen caught in a clean cup or collected during routine physical exams during the visit (i.e. DRE). Contamination from toilet water should be avoided. 1. Fill in the patient demographic information on the sampling bottle. 2. Open the green cap by turning to the left and pulling upwards. 3. Randomly scrape the surface of the fecal sample with the sample probe. Cover the grooved portion of the sample probe completely with stool sample. 4. Close the sampling bottle by inserting the sample probe and screwing cap on tightly to the right. Do not reopen. The inoculated sample may be stored at room temperature for up to fifteen (15) days or can be refrigerated at 2-8 degrees C for up to thirty (30) days.



M4-RT Transport for Chlamydia Culture, Bordetella PCR, and Viral PCR

Transport kit includes a vial of M4-RT (conical tube with a red cap containing pink fluid with glass beads) as well as large (vaginal or cervical) and small (urethral or nasopharyngeal) plastic, flexible flocked swabs. The un-inoculated kits can be stored at room temperature. Discard if there is evidence of contamination or the color has changed from light pink. To use, collect specimen with swab, insert into transport media, break off shaft (leave swab in transport), tighten lid securely, and refrigerate. Do not use cotton swabs, calcium alginate swabs or wooden-shafted swabs. Specimens include respiratory, urogenital, sterile tissue, and sterile body fluids.



M5 Transport for Ureaplasma PCR, Mycoplasma PCR, and Viral Culture

Transport kit includes a vial of M5 (conical tube with a green cap containing clear fluid with glass beads) as well as a dacron swab. To use, collect specimen with the swab, insert into transport media, tighten lid securely, and refrigerate. Do not use cotton swabs, calcium alginate swabs or wooden-shafted swabs. Specimens include urogenital and nasopharyngeal.



PreservCyt for HPV

A vial containing 3 mL PreservCyt liquid. Collect cervical specimen and place into ThinPrep/PreservCyt vial. Store and transport at room temperature. Use for Human Papillomavirus (HPV) DNA Profile.



Aptima Urine Collection Kit (Urine for Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria Gonorrhoeae, Trichomonas vaginalis, and Mycoplasma genitalium RNA)

Includes pipette and Aptima transport tube. 1. The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to sample collection. Female patients should not cleanse the labial area prior to collection. 2. Instruct patient to provide 20 to 30 mL of the initial urine stream (NOT midstream) into a urine cup free of any preservatives. Collection of larger volumes of urine may result in rRNA target dilution that may reduce test sensitivity. 3. Remove the cap and transfer 2 mL of urine into the Urine Transport Tube using the disposable pipette provided. The correct volume of urine has been added when the fluid level is between the black lines on the urine transport tube label. 4. Re-cap the urine specimen transport tube tightly and label with two identifiers. Store and transport at room temperature or refrigerated. Urine specimens collected in the primary collection container must be transferred to Aptima urine transport tube within 24 hours of collection.



Aptima Vaginal Swab Collection Kit (Vaginal for Chlamydia trachomatis, Neisseria Gonorrhoeae, Trichomonas vaginalis, and Mycoplasma genitalium RNA)

Includes vaginal swab and Aptima transport tube. 1. Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, the swab is laid down, or the swab is dropped, use a new APTIMA Vaginal Swab Collection Kit. 2. Hold the swab, placing your thumb and forefinger in the middle of the swab shaft covering the score line. Do not hold the swab shaft below the score line. 3. Carefully insert the swab into the vagina about 2 inches (5 cm) past the introitus and gently rotate the swab for 10 to 30 seconds. Make sure the swab touches the walls of the vagina so that moisture is absorbed by the swab and then withdraw the swab without touching the skin. 4. While holding the swab in the same hand, unscrew the cap from the tube. Do not spill the contents of the tube. If the contents of the tube are spilled, use a new APTIMA Vaginal Swab Collection Kit. 5. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so that the score line is at the top of the tube. 6. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the score line and discard the top portion of the swab shaft, using care to avoid splashing of contents. 7. Recap the swab transport media tube tightly and label with two identifiers. Store and transport at room temperature or refrigerated (up to 30 days).



Aptima Unisex Swab Collection Kit

(Endocervical and Male Urethral for *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Trichomonas vaginalis*, and *Mycoplasma genitalium* RNA)

Includes cleaning swab, unisex swab, and Aptima transport tube.

ENDOCERVICAL: 1. Remove excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding mucosa using the large, white shaft cleaning swab. Discard this swab. 2. Insert the small blue shaft collection swab into the endocervical canal. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 10 to 30 seconds. 3. Withdraw the swab carefully, avoiding any contact with the vaginal mucosa. 4. Remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the swab into the transport tube. 5. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the score line and discard the top portion of the swab shaft, using care to avoid splashing of contents. 6. Recap the swab specimen transport tube tightly and label with two identifiers. Store and transport at room temperature or refrigerated (up to 30 days).

MALE URETHRAL: 1. The patient should not have urinated for at least 1 hour prior to sample collection. 2. Insert the small blue shaft collection swab (NOT the larger white shaft cleaning swab) 2-4 cm into the urethra. Gently rotate the swab clockwise for 2-3 seconds. 3. Withdraw the swab carefully. 4. Remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the swab into the transport tube. 5. Carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube at the score line and discard the top portion of the swab shaft, using care to avoid splashing of contents. 6. Recap the swab specimen transport tube tightly and label with two identifiers. Store and transport at room temperature or refrigerated (up to 30 days).



Scotch Tape Prep

Requires a clean slide, clear transparent tape, slide container and envelope. Do not use frosted or "magic" tape. Stick tape onto one side of labeled clean glass slide, sticky side down. Do not wrap tape around slide. After collection place slide in slide container, tape shut, place slide container in envelope and tape closed. Package slide to prevent breakage.

Vacutainer Tubes

Sterile glass tube containing vacuum and various additives. To use wipe stopper with 70% alcohol and inject blood or bone marrow specimen, or collect specimen directly into vacutainer tube. Invert several times to mix. See the [Order of Draw for Multiple Tube Collections](#) document for additional information.