Microbiology Specimen Collection and Transport Guide
Swab Collection and Transport Devices

Prior to specimen collection, store all transport devices at room temperature unless otherwise indicated. Prior to use, inspect collection and transport materials for their expiration dates.

Swab or Double Swab in Amies Agar Gel
Use for aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture and fungal culture. Use double swab when both culture and Gram stain are needed. Use for Group B Streptococcus colonization detection from vaginal/rectal specimens. Remove white cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with colored cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert swab (still attached to colored cap) firmly into the agar gel in the transport tube. Do not break or cut the shaft. Transport at room temperature after collection.
Supply order numbers: 33302, 49481, 33325

Swab in Liquid Stuart’s Medium
Use for MRSA detection by nucleic acid amplification. Remove white cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with colored cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert (still attached to colored cap) firmly into the sponge in the transport tube. Do not break or cut the shaft. Transport at room temperature after collection for up to 48 hours.
Supply order number: 33346

Double Polyester Dry Swab
Use for Group A Strep Rapid Antigen Screen and Group A Strep Direct DNA Probe. Acceptable for Group A Strep Culture. Do not use for routine bacterial culture. Transport at room temperature after collection.
Supply order numbers: 33235, 48222

Nasopharyngeal Dry Flocked Swab
Use for viral culture (eg, influenza) or nucleic acid amplification (NAA) testing (eg, B pertussis) of nasopharyngeal specimens. For B pertussis NAA only: Place swab into its dry plastic transport tube and transport at room or refrigerated temperature. For other NAA testing and viral culture of nasopharyngeal specimens: Place swab in Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT) and transport at room temperature for up to 24 hours after collection or refrigerate.
Supply order number: 93307

Swab in Liquid Stuart’s Medium
Use for viral culture (eg, influenza) or nucleic acid amplification (NAA) testing (eg, B pertussis) of nasopharyngeal specimens. For B pertussis NAA only: Place swab into its dry plastic transport tube and transport at room or refrigerated temperature. For other NAA testing and viral culture of nasopharyngeal specimens: Place swab in Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT) and transport at room temperature for up to 24 hours after collection or refrigerate.
Supply order number: 93307

Soft Aluminum Wire Dry Minitip Swab
Use for bacterial culture of nasopharynx or for bacterial/viral culture of male urethra. Can be used for nucleic acid amplification testing (eg, HSV) from male urethra. For B pertussis culture, place swab in Bordetella Culture Transport. For other bacterial culture, place swab in Amies Agar Gel Bacterial Transport. For viral culture or nucleic acid amplification testing, place swab in Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT). See Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) & NuSwab® Tests by Nucleic Acid Amplification for additional information regarding collection and transport for detection of these pathogens.
Supply order numbers: 19771, 24068

Double Swab in Liquid Amies Medium
Use for BV sialidase activity and vaginal yeast culture. Remove white cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with colored cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert swab (still attached to colored cap) firmly into the sponge in the transport tube. Do not break or cut the shaft. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate for up to 72 hours after collection.
Supply order number: 33336

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SWAB COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT DEVICES

Sterile Container
Use for transport of specimens for those tests where preservative is contraindicated; for example, sputum for bacterial culture; or nails, hair, and skin for fungal culture. Refer to LabCorp Directory of Services and Interpretive Guide for proper transport temperature for a specific test request.
Supply order number: 20648

Routine Blood Culture
Use an Adult or Pediatric Blood Culture Collection Kit for culture of blood for bacteria and yeast. Indicate if culture is to rule out Brucella or Francisella. Transport bottles at room temperature after collection. Adults (2-bottle set): Collect blood using blood collection set and adapter cap, following instructions on procedural chart included in kit. Inoculate 8-10 mL into the BacT/Alert® aerobic bottle, and then inoculate 8-10 mL into the BacT/Alert® anaerobic bottle. If collection volume is low, submit using only the aerobic bottle. The aerobic bottle has no minimum volume requirement. Children (1 bottle): Collect blood using blood collection set and adapter cap, following instructions on procedural chart included in kit. Inoculate up to 4 mL into the BacT/Alert® Pediatric bottle.
Supply order numbers: 50053 (adult), 50054 (pediatric)

Urine Culture Transport
Use for urine culture only. This gray-top Vacutainer® transport will maintain bacterial colony counts during transport to the lab for a period of 48 hours. Fill tubes to the minimum fill line (at least 4 mL). Do not submit a red/yellow swirl-top Vacutainer® urinalysis preservative tube for urine culture. Transport at room temperature after collection.
Supply order numbers: 25067, 23643

Bordetella Culture Transport
Charcoal-containing Regan-Lowe medium is used for transport of specimens for B pertussis culture. Store refrigerated before use. Allow medium to warm to ambient temperature before inoculation. Place aluminum wire minitip swab into transport medium after nasopharyngeal specimen is obtained. Preincubate the inoculated bottle at 35°C (if possible) prior to transport at refrigerated temperature. Alternatively, for detection of Bordetella DNA by nucleic acid amplification (NAA) testing, submit a nasopharyngeal dry flocked swab in its dry plastic transport tube at room or refrigerated temperature. Regan-Lowe medium is not suitable for NAA testing.
Supply order number: 31965
Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) & NuSwab® Tests by Nucleic Acid Amplification

For detection of *C. trachomatis*, *N. gonorrhoea*, *T. vaginalis*, herpes simplex virus 1 & 2, *Candida* species, genitai *Mycoplasma/Ureaplasma*, and/or bacterial vaginosis

Submit the APTIMA® multitest swab transport with orange label (preferred transport) for amplified detection of *C. trachomatis* (Ct), *N. gonorrhoea* (Ng), *T. vaginalis* (Tv), herpes simplex virus (HSV) 1 & 2, *Candida* species, *M. hominis*, *Ureaplasma*, *M. genitalium*, and/or bacterial vaginosis (BV) from vaginal fluid specimens. Collect vaginal sample by contacting the swab to the lower third of the vaginal wall and rotating the swab for 10-30 seconds to absorb fluid. Immediately place the swab into transport tube and carefully break the swab shaft against the side of the tube. Alternatively, submit the APTIMA® unisex swab transport with white label for amplified detection of Ct, Ng, Tv, *M. hominis*, *U. urealyticum*, *M. genitalium*, or HSV 1 & 2 from endocervical or male urethral specimens. A vaginal specimen is required if the unisex swab is used for amplified detection of BV and/or *Candida* species. All tests can be performed from a single transport device. Do not place more than 1 swab in a single transport device. Do not use the white-shafted cleaning swab that comes with the unisex swab to collect specimen. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate after collection.

Supply order numbers: 119391, 57677, 33291

Human Papillomavirus (HPV) by Hybrid Capture®

Submit the Digene HPV transport tube containing specimen transport medium for the detection of low- and/or high-risk types of human papillomavirus (HPV) in cervical specimens by nucleic acid probe hybridization. Obtain specimen by first removing excess mucus from the cervical os and surrounding ectocervix using a cotton or polyester swab and then inserting the Digene cervical sampling brush 1.0-1.5 cm into the cervical os until the largest bristles touch the ectocervix. Do not insert brush completely into the cervical canal. Rotate brush 3 full turns in a counterclockwise direction, remove from the canal, and insert brush into the transport tube. Snap off shaft of sampler at scored line, leaving brush end inside tube, and recap securely by snapping in place. Transport at room temperature.

Supply order number: 22495

Vaginitis/Vaginosis by DNA Probe

Submit the BD Affirm™ VPIII ATTS sample collection tube for detection of *Candida* species, *G. vaginalis*, and *T. vaginalis* from vaginal fluid swab specimens of patients with symptoms of vaginitis/vaginosis. Break the ampule and dispense the ambient temperature transport reagent into the sample collection tube before placing the swab specimen into the tube. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate after collection. Specimens must be tested within 72 hours after collection.

Supply order number: 56228

APTIMA® Multitest Swab Transport (preferred for NuSwab® testing)

APTIMA® Unisex Swab Transport

APTIMA® Urine Transport

APTIMA® Urine Transport with yellow label for amplified detection of Ct, Ng, Tv, *M. hominis*, *Ureaplasma*, and/or *M. genitalium* from male or female first-void urine specimens. Total volume of urine submitted must fall between the two black lines indicated on the transport tube label. Transport at room temperature or refrigerate after collection.

BD Affirm™ VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System
SWAB COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT DEVICES

Universal Transport Medium
The multipurpose Universal Transport Medium (UTM-RT) is used for the collection and transport of specimens to be tested for viruses, Mycoplasma, and Ureaplasma. Additionally, UTM-RT can be used for transport of swab specimens submitted for detection of bacterial (except B pertussis) or viral DNA by NAA (eg, PCR). UTM-RT can be stored at room or refrigerated temperature prior to specimen collection. Collect specimen using appropriate sampling swab, and then place swab in medium, breaking off shaft in tube. Transport and store at room temperature for up to 24 hours after specimen is placed into medium or refrigerate. For PCR testing, specimen may be transported at room or refrigerated temperature. **Note:** If M4 or M4-RT transport medium (not supplied by LabCorp) is used instead of UTM-RT, a) M4-RT can be stored at room temperature before specimen collection but cannot be used for transport of specimens for Mycoplasma and Ureaplasma culture, b) M4 may be kept at room temperature for up to 30 days prior to use but requires refrigerated storage before specimen collection if held longer, and c) both M4 and M4-RT must be kept refrigerated after specimen collection. **Supply order number: 24674**

Trichomonas Culture
The InPouch™ TV system is used to maintain the viability of T vaginalis during transport. Tear open pouch at notch and insert swab into liquid of upper chamber. Gently press swab between walls of the chamber, and then discard swab. Roll down pouch 2 full turns, and fold end tabs to lock. Transport at room temperature after collection. **Supply order number: 83557**

Jembec Plate for GC Culture
Culture media transport system containing Modified Thayer Martin agar used to improve recovery of N gonorrhoeae. Plates are stored refrigerated and should be prewarmed prior to use. Inoculate Jembec plate with specimen by rolling swab over surface of medium. Remove the CO2 tablet from the foil pouch and place in the well of the plate, and seal inoculated plate in a zip-lock bag. Preincubate at 35°C (if possible) prior to transport at room temperature. **Supply order number: 33297**

Sterile Body Fluid Culture
Use the Vacutainer® Plus No Additive Tube for transport of sterile body fluid specimens (eg, cerebrospinal, synovial, or peritoneal fluids) for culture. Alternatively, an empty sterile tube, other sterile leakproof container, or BacT/Alert blood culture bottle can be used. A Vacutainer red-top tube is not acceptable. Transport at room temperature. **Supply order number: 44370**
**Stool Culture Transport**

The orange Para-Pak® vial containing Cary Blair transport medium is designed to maintain the viability of enteric pathogens during transport to the laboratory. Place stool into each vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Both vials should be submitted for the O&P exam. For Giardia antigen, Cryptosporidium, Microsporidium, and Cyclospora exams, submit stool specimens in a pink vial. Submit stool in a gray vial for fecal leukocyte detection. These tests must be ordered separately from the O&P exam. Transport at room temperature after collection.

**Supply order number: 49628**

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**QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT®-Plus) Assay for Tuberculosis Infection**

The QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT-Plus) collection kit is used to submit specimens for the interferon-gamma release assay for detection of tuberculosis infection. This QFT-Plus kit contains collection and handling instructions and 4 unique blood collection tubes. (1) gray-top (with white ring), uncoated (nil); (2) green cap with white ring, TB1 tube; (3) yellow cap with white ring, TB2 tube; (4) purple top with white ring, mitogen-coated. A high-altitude kit is also available for locations between 3350 and 6150 feet; a cap with a yellow ring differentiates the tubes. Collect whole blood into each of the 4 collection tubes and shake them ten (10) times firmly enough to ensure the entire inner surface of the tube is coated with blood. Return each of the properly filled, labeled, and shaken tubes to the box labeled “QFT kit.” Seal the top by removing tape from the adhesive. Submit kit for arrival at the laboratory within 14 hours of collection, or, alternatively, incubate at 37°C for 16 to 24 hours within 16 hours of collection prior to transport. Blood collection tubes should be at room temperature at the time of collection. Do not centrifuge, refrigerate, or ship tubes on ice.

**Supply order number: 121725, 121727 (High Altitude)**

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**Stool Transport Without Preservative**

The white Para-Pak® clean vial is used for transport of stool for those tests where preservative is contraindicated; for example, *C. difficile* toxin, rotavirus, and *H. pylori* antigen. Refer to LabCorp Directory of Services and Interpretive Guide for proper transport temperature for a specific test request.

**Supply order number: 59517**

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**Fecal Occult Blood by Immunoassay (iFOBT)**

Submit stool obtained using Polymedco sampling bottle to detect occult blood by immunochemical method. Scrape surface of fecal sample with sampling probe until grooved portion of probe is completely covered with stool. Insert probe into sampling bottle and snap cap on tightly. Transport at room temperature after collection. **Include test requisition with device when submitting specimen to lab by mail.**

**Testing must be performed within 15 days of specimen collection.**

Contact LabCorp representative for ordering information.

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**Ova & Parasites (O&P) Transport**

The pink (formalin) and gray (PVA) Para-Pak® vials are used for transport of stool specimens for ova and parasites examination. Place stool into each vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Both vials should be submitted for the O&P exam. For Giardia antigen, Cryptosporidium, Microsporidium, and Cyclospora exams, submit stool specimens in a pink vial. Submit stool in a gray vial for fecal leukocyte detection. These tests must be ordered separately from the O&P exam. Transport at room temperature after collection.

**Supply order number: 49627**
# Supply Ordering Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Reorder Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Affirm™ VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System</td>
<td>56228</td>
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<tr>
<td>APTIMA® Unisex Swab Transport, 50/box</td>
<td>57677</td>
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<tr>
<td>APTIMA® Urine Transport, 50/box</td>
<td>33291</td>
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<tr>
<td>APTIMA® Multitest Swab Transport, 50/box (Preferred for NuSwab® tests)</td>
<td>119391</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Culture Adult Collection Kit</td>
<td>50053</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blood Culture Pediatric Collection Kit</td>
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<td>Bordetella Culture Transport (Regan-Lowe)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digene Hybrid Capture® 2 HPV Collection and Transport Kit</td>
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<td>Fecal Occult Blood iFOBT Collection Mailer, 20/pack (Contact LabCorp representative for ordering information)</td>
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<td>InPouch™ TV Trichomonas Transport</td>
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<td>Jembec Plate for GC</td>
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<td>Para-Pak C&amp;S Vial</td>
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<td>Para-Pak Clean (Empty) Vial</td>
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<td>Para-Pak O&amp;P Vials (PVA and Formalin)</td>
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<td>QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus Collection Kit</td>
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<td>QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus Collection Kit - High Altitude</td>
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<td>Sterile Body Fluid Culture Vacutainer® Transport Tube</td>
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<td>Sterile Container</td>
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<td>Swab, Amies Agar Gel, 50/box</td>
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<td>Urine Culture Collection Transfer Straws</td>
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<td>Urine Culture Vacutainer® Transport Tube</td>
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<td>UTM-RT Viral/Chlamydia/Mycoplasma Transport, Female Swab</td>
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For detailed specimen collection information, visit the online test menu at www.LabCorp.com.