



Microbiology specimen collection and transport guide

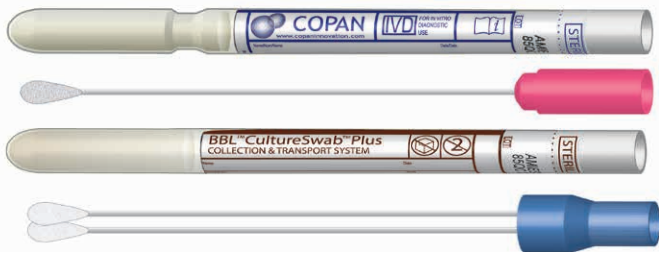
Swab collection and transport devices

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. Can be used for recovery of *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* (GC 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 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



Double polyester dry swab

Use for Group A Strep Rapid Antigen Screen. Acceptable for Group A Strep Culture. **Do not use for routine bacterial culture.** Transport at room temperature after collection.

Supply order numbers: 33235, 48222



ESwab®

Use for aerobic and anaerobic bacterial culture and yeast culture. Use for Group A *Streptococcus* Detection by NAA (test 180800). Do **not** use for Group B *Streptococcus* colonization detection by culture or NAA from vaginal/rectal specimens. Open the ESwab sample collection pouch and remove tube and swab. Collect sample from patient. Unscrew and remove cap from ESwab tube and break off swab at the colored breakpoint indication line into tube. Replace cap securely on tube. Transport at room temperature after collection.

Supply order number: 130839



Double swab in liquid Amies medium

Use for BV sialidase activity and vaginal yeast culture. Can be used as an alternative for aerobic bacterial 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.

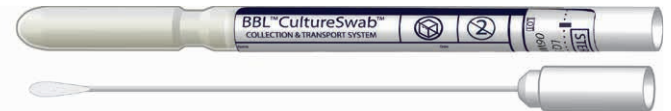
Supply order number: 33336



Swab in liquid Stuart's medium

Use for MRSA detection by nucleic acid amplification (test 182956). Can be used as an alternative for aerobic bacterial culture. Remove cap from top of transport tube and discard. Holding shaft by end with cap, collect specimen with the swab. Insert (still attached to 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



Nasopharyngeal dry flocced swab

Use for viral culture (e.g., influenza) or nucleic acid amplification (NAA) testing (e.g., *B pertussis*) of nasopharyngeal specimens. **For *B pertussis* NAA (test 138677) only:** Place swab into its dry plastic transport tube and transport at room or refrigerated temperature. **For respiratory virus NAA testing and virus 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 (e.g., 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 Infections (STIs) and NuSwab® tests by nucleic acid amplification for additional information regarding collection and transport for detection of these pathogens.

Supply order numbers: 19771, 24068



Blood culture, routine

Use an adult or pediatric blood culture collection kit for culture of blood for bacteria and yeast. Indicate if culture is to rule out a biothreat agent such as *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® (Fan Plus) aerobic bottle, then inoculate 8–10 mL into the BacT/Alert® (Fan Plus) anaerobic bottle. If collection volume is low (<10 mL), inoculate and submit only the aerobic bottle.

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® (Fan Plus) Pediatric bottle.

Supply order numbers: 125184 (adult), 125185 (pediatric)



Aerobic, Anaerobic and Pediatric BacT/Alert (Fan Plus) Blood Culture Bottles

Body fluid culture, sterile

Use the Vacutainer® Plus No Additive Tube for transport of sterile body fluid specimens (e.g., 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 with any additive is **not** acceptable. Transport at room temperature.

Supply order number: 44370



Vacutainer® Plus No Additive Transport Tube

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



COVID-19/influenza A/influenza B and RSV RT-PCR test (anterior nares)

Specimen collection kit for the collection of Labcorp's 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) assay from the anterior nares (nasal collection). May be used for other nucleic acid amplification respiratory viral testing panels only if a nasal collection in 0.9% saline is an acceptable sample type. Other respiratory pathogens that require collection using a nasopharyngeal swab and a viral or universal transport media will **not** be accepted if collected using this kit. Transport frozen at -20°C (preferred) or refrigerated if received for testing within 72 hours of collection.

Supply order number: 127684



Saline Kit Swab

Swab collection and transport devices

Occult Blood, Fecal, Immunoassay (ColoFIT™)

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.



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 3,350 and 6,150 feet; a cap with a yellow ring differentiates the tubes. Collect whole blood into each of the 4 collection tubes and shake them 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 numbers: 121725, 121727 (high altitude)

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



PVA and Formalin Vials



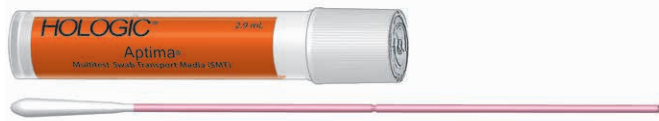
QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT®-Plus) Kit

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and NuSwab® tests by nucleic acid amplification

For detection of *C Trachomatis*, *N gonorrhoeae*, *T vaginalis*, herpes simplex virus 1 and 2, *Candida* species, genital *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 gonorrhoeae* (Ng), *T vaginalis* (Tv), herpes simplex virus (HSV) 1 and 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 at the score line against the side of the tube and immediately discard the top portion of the swab shaft. 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 and 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

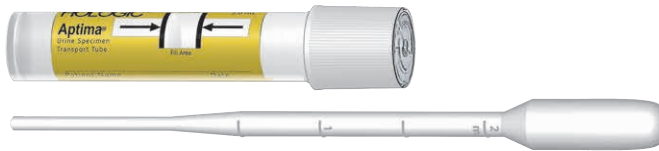


APTIMA® Multitest Swab Transport (preferred for NuSwab® testing)



APTIMA® Unisex Swab Transport

Submit the 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.



APTIMA® Urine Transport

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



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. Use for all stool cultures and Gastrointestinal profile, stool, PCR (test 183480). Place stool into vial up to, but not higher than, the red fill line. Rectal swabs collected from pediatric patients are placed into the vial after breaking off the shaft. Transport at room temperature after collection.

Supply order number: 49628



C&S Vial

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 online Test Menu at www.labcorp.com/tests for proper transport temperature for a specific test request.

Supply order number: 59517

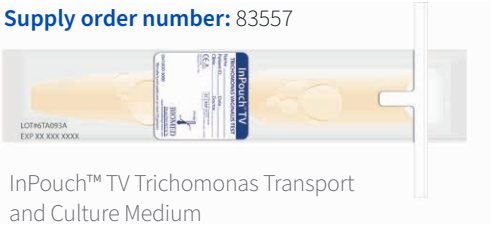


Clean Vial

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, 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

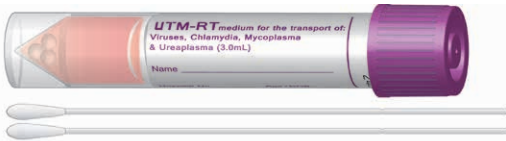


InPouch™ TV Trichomonas Transport and Culture Medium

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 (e.g., PCR) including Respiratory pathogen profile, PCR (test 139845). UTM-RT can be stored at room or refrigerated temperature prior to specimen collection. Collect specimen using appropriate sampling swab, 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

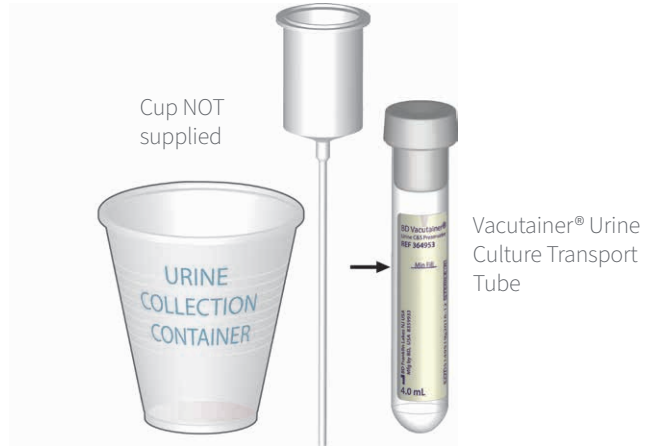


UTM-RT Transport (purple-cap)

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



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



BD Affirm™ VPIII Ambient Temperature Transport System

Supply ordering information

| Item | Reorder number |
|--|---|
| Affirm™ VPIII ambient temperature transport system | 56228 |
| APTIMA® unisex swab transport, 50/box | 57677 |
| APTIMA® urine transport, 50/box | 33291 |
| APTIMA® multitest swab transport, 50/box (preferred for NuSwab® tests) | 119391 |
| Blood culture adult collection kit | 125184 |
| Blood culture pediatric collection kit | 125185 |
| Bordetella culture transport (Regan-Lowe) | 31965 |
| COVID-19 collection kit, saline, 50/case | 127684 |
| Fecal occult blood iFOBT collection mailer, 20/pack | Contact Labcorp representative for ordering information |
| InPouch™ TV Trichomonas transport | 83557 |
| Para-Pak® C&S vial | 49628 |
| Para-Pak® clean (empty) vial | 59517 |
| Para-Pak® O&P vials (PVA and formalin) | 49627 |
| QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus collection kit | 121725 |
| QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus collection kit - high altitude | 121727 |
| Sterile body fluid culture Vacutainer® transport tube | 44370 |
| Sterile container | 20648 |
| Swab, Amies agar gel, 50/box | 33302 |
| Swab, Amies agar gel, 500/case | 49481 |
| Swab, double, Amies agar gel, 50/box | 33325 |
| Swab, double, Amies liquid, 500/case | 33336 |
| Swab, double, dry, polyester (for strep), 50/box | 33235 |
| Swab, double, dry, polyester (for strep), 500/case | 48222 |
| Swab, dry, soft aluminum wire, minitip, 100/box | 19771 |
| Swab, dry, soft aluminum wire, minitip, 1000/case | 24068 |
| Swab, ESwab® transport tube, 50/box | 130839 |
| Swab, flocked, dry, nasopharyngeal, 100/box | 93307 |
| Swab, Stuart's liquid, 50/pack | 33346 |
| Urine culture collection transfer straws | 25067 |
| Urine culture Vacutainer® transport tube | 23643 |
| UTM-RT viral/Chlamydia/Mycoplasma transport, female swab | 24674 |

Microbiology specimen collection and transport guide



For detailed specimen collection information, visit the online test menu [labcorp.com](https://www.labcorp.com)
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