UVMMC Microbiology Test Collection

- For additional information on specimen collection and acceptability and links to the brochures mentioned below, visit the UVM Medical Center Test Catalog at: https://UVMLabs.TestCatalog.org/
- If you still have questions, please contact Laboratory Customer Service at 847-5121
- All supplies listed here can be ordered through the Laboratory Supply Room via Laboratory Customer Service unless otherwise noted.

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1. Bacterial and Yeast collection Kit

Use For:
- Swab samples for bacterial culture and smear (NOT acceptable for anaerobes – submit tissue or fluid if anaerobes are of concern)
- MRSA PCR
- Vaginitis exam/Trichomonas Antigen
- Group B Strep PCR
- Throat screen for Strep
- Fungus (yeast only, if a mold is suspected submit fluid, tissue, hair, nails, or skin scrapings)

Preferred: “e-swab” Bacterial/Yeast Collection Kit
Acceptable: Traditional Swab Bacterial/Yeast Collection Kit
**not acceptable for anaerobes**

Reject due to:
- Dry swab submitted
  - “e-swab” must be transported with the liquid included in the vial. Do not add liquid to the vial.
  - Traditional swabs must come with a sponge pre-soaked with transport liquid. Do not add liquid to the sponge or the vial
- No swab submitted

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2. Bordetella pertussis PCR Collection Kit

Use For:

Bordetella pertussis PCR

Reject due to:

- Dry swab submitted
  - Swab must be transported with the liquid included in the vial. Do not add liquid to the vial.
- No swab submitted
- Traditional swab bacterial/yeast collection kit submitted

Collection Instructions:

BORDETELLA PERTUSSIS COLLECTION

B. pertussis binds specifically to ciliated respiratory epithelial cells which are found in the nasopharynx, making a nasopharyngeal sample (NP), the specimen of choice for Bordetella PCR testing.

The Bordetella collection Kit contains a sterile tube and a flocculated swab.

1. Insert the tip of the flocculated swab into a nostril to obtain a specimen from the posterior nasopharynx.
2. Do not force the swab; resistance will be felt when the posterior nasopharynx is reached.
3. Rotate the swab and leave it in place for 10-30 seconds or until the patient coughs.
4. Repeat the process for the second nostril.
3. Sterile Container

Use For:

- Urine Culture
- Tissue (if submitting for anaerobes, anaerobic transport vial is preferred)
- Fluids
- Stool for:
  - C. difficile PCR
  - Fecal Lactoferrin
  - H. pylori stool antigen
- Respiratory samples
- Skin/hair/nails for fungal culture

Preferred: Containers supplied by UVMMC

Acceptable: Sterile containers from other vendors and in other sizes/shapes/colors are acceptable. Container must be marked as sterile and sealed before use.

Reject due to:

- Improperly closed container causing leaks/spillage.
- Non-sterile container
4. Anaerobic Transport Vial

Use For:

- Anaerobic culture/smear (includes aerobic culture)

Do not use if pouch is compromised or missing. Do not use if past expiration date. Contact the Microbiology Laboratory via Laboratory Customer Service (847-5121) to acquire anaerobic transport vials.

5. Fecal Bacterial Pathogen Collection Kit

Use for:

- Fecal Bacterial Pathogen PCR
- Feces culture for unusual pathogens

Do not use for:

- C. difficile PCR (see sterile container)
- Ova and Parasite Testing (see Ova and Parasite Total Fix Vial)

Preferred: Fecal Bacterial Pathogen Collection Kit

Acceptable: Sterile container

(Cary-Blair stool culture & sensitivity transport vial)

Note: stool submitted in a sterile container must be received in the laboratory within 24 hours of collection. If stool is submitted to the office in a sterile container and Cary-Blair media is available, place stool sample in Cary Blair using aseptic technique upon receipt. Denote the collection time and time placed in Cary Blair on the sample. Stool is stable in Cary Blair for up to 4 days.

Reject due to: Sample submitted without red transport fluid
6. Ova and Parasite Total Fix Vial
Use For:
- Ova and parasite exam
- Giardia and cryptosporidium antigens

Reject due to: Any other collection container

7. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia Aptima probe tubes
Use for:
- Gonorrhea and Chlamydia testing only
Acceptable
- See Aptima Collection Brochure

8. Respiratory/Mucocutaneous Virus Collection
Use for:
- Flu/RSV PCR
- COVID PCR
- Mucocutaneous virus detection (HSV/VZV)
Acceptable:
Due to COVID-related supply chain issues, there are currently many different acceptable sample types for viral studies. See: Virology Collection Brochure