

Bacteriology Specimen Collection & Transport by Source

Specimen Source	Collection Procedure	Optimum Transport Procedure <i>(Transport all specimens within 24 hours or overnight unless otherwise specified.)</i>
Abscess Open Closed	Swab transport system Anaerobic transport system, ≥1mL	Room Temperature Room Temperature
Bite Wound – See Abscess		
Blood Culture *Focus does not use BC instrumentation	Blood culture bottle Adult, 10-20mL/set Infant, 1-2mL/set	Room Temperature
Catheter	Sterile screw-cap tube	2-8° C
Cellulitis	Sterile tube, tissue or agar gel swab transport	Room Temperature
CSF	>1mL in sterile screw-cap tube	Room Temperature
Decubitus ulcer	Swab transport or anaerobic system	Room Temperature
Dental Culture Gingival, periodontal, periapical, Vincent's stomatitis	Anaerobic transport system	Room Temperature
Ear Inner Outer	Sterile tube, swab transport medium or anaerobic system Swab transport	Room Temperature Room Temperature
Eye Conjunctiva Corneal scrapings	Swab transport medium	Room Temperature Room Temperature
Fistula- See Abscess		
Fluids Abdominal, ascites, bile, joint, pericardial, peritoneal, pleural, synovial	Sterile screw-cap tube or anaerobic transport system >1mL	Room Temperature
Gangrenous tissue- See Abscess		
Gastric Wash or lavage fluid	Sterile, leakproof container	Room Temperature
Genital: female Amniotic Bartholin Cervix Cul-de-sac Endometrium Products of conception Urethra Vagina	Anaerobic transport system, >1mL Anaerobic transport system, >1mL Swab transport Anaerobic transport system, >1mL Anaerobic transport system, >1mL Sterile tube or anaerobic transport system Swab transport Swab transport	Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature

Continued on Next Page

Bacteriology Specimen Collection & Transport by Source

Specimen Source	Collection Procedure	Optimum Transport Procedure <i>(Transport all specimens within 24 hours or overnight unless otherwise specified.)</i>
Genital: male Prostate Urethra	Swab transport or sterile tube Swab transport	Room Temperature Room Temperature
Pilonidal cyst – See Abscess		
Respiratory tract – lower BAL, lung biopsy, bronchial brushing/washing, tracheal aspirate	Sterile container, >1mL	2-8° C
Respiratory tract-upper Oral Nasal Nasopharynx Throat	Swab transport Swab transport Swab transport Swab transport	Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature Room Temperature
Sputum Expectorated or Induced	Sterile container, >1mL	2-8° C
Stool Routine culture	>2g in sterile, leakproof container or enteric transport system	2-8° C Enteric transport: <48h, Room Temperature
Clostridium difficile culture	>5mL in sterile, anaerobic, leakproof container	2-8° C >24h, FROZEN
Escherichia coli	>2mL in sterile, leakproof container or enteric transport system	Room Temperature Enteric transport: Room Temperature
Rectal swab	Swab transport	2-8° C
Tissue Aerobic	Swab Transport System or sterile container with sterile saline	Room Temperature
Anaerobic	Anaerobic Transport System	Room Temperature
Urine Female, midstream	Sterile leakproof container, >1mL or urine transport kit	Unpreserved: 2-8° C Preserved: Room Temperature
Male, midstream	Sterile leakproof container, >1mL or urine transport kit	Unpreserved: 2-8° C Preserved: Room Temperature
Straight catheter	Sterile leakproof container	Unpreserved: 2-8° C Preserved: Room Temperature
Indwelling catheter	Sterile leakproof container	Unpreserved: 2-8° C Preserved; Room Temperature
Wound (See abscess)		

*Please note that this is a suggested specimen collection guide.
For specimen types that are not listed, please contact Focus' Scientific Director of Microbiology*