

MYCOBACTERIUM
CULTURE

Orderable - AFBC

Turnaround Time: 8 weeks (Microscopic results reported as soon as possible, culture requires up to 8 weeks)

Positives reported upon detection.

Alternate Name(s):

Acid Fast Bacilli Culture (AFB)

TB Culture

Specimen Type and Collection Instructions:

Specimen Type	Collection instructions
Abscess contents, aspirated fluid	As much as possible (≥ 5mL) in a sterile container
Blood	Collect into a 6 mL Dark Green (Sodium Heparin) Vacutainer tube (DO NOT SPIN)
Body fluids (pleural, pericardial, peritoneal, etc.)	Collect as much as possible (10-15mL) in a sterile container
Bone	Collect in a sterile container
Bone Marrow	Collect into a 6mL green top Vacutainer tube or sterile Container
Bronchial Alveolar Lavage (BAL)	Collect a minimum of 5mL in a sterile container. Submit a post-bronchoscopy sputum as well
CSF	Collect a minimum of 2 mL in a sterile container. Specimens <0.5 mL will be rejected.
Faeces	1.0 grams in sterile container
Gastric Lavage Fluid	Obtain Gastric Lavage transport media from the Microbiology Laboratory. Collect fasting, early morning sample to recover sputum swallowed during sleep. Following collection, the sample must be neutralized immediately by transferring it to the transport container which contains sodium carbonate.
Induced Sputum	Collect 5-10 mL of induced sputum in a sterile container. Use hypertonic saline. Patient can expectorate several times per collection to achieve minimum volume. Ensure patient does NOT rinse mouth with tap water before expectoration or



Laboratory:
Microbiology



Requisition:
PUBLIC HEALTH
LABORATORY TEST
REQUISITION

This requisition **MUST**
accompany the specimen



Method of Analysis:
Microscopy, Culture, PCR



Test Schedule:
Referred out weekdays



Referred to:
Public Health Laboratory
1200 Commissioners Rd E
London, Ontario
519-455-9310

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	expectorate saliva or postnasal discharge. Avoid sputum contamination with nebulizer reservoir water. Do not pool samples.
Sputum	Collect 5-10 mL of expectorated or induced sputum in a sterile container. Patient can expectorate several times per collection to achieve minimum volume. Ensure patient does NOT rinse mouth tap water before expectoration or expectorate saliva or postnasal discharge. Do not pool samples.
Tissue Biopsy Sample	Collect 1 gram of tissue in a sterile container. Select caseous portion if available. A small amount (<1 mL) of sterile saline may be added to keep specimen from drying. Tissue submitted in anaerobic transport is not acceptable for culture.
Tracheal aspirate	Collect as much as possible into a sterile container.
Urine	Send minimum 40mL of first morning urine (midstream or catheter collection) in a sterile container.

For more specimen types and detailed collection information, please see [Additional Mycobacterium Collection Information](#) from the Public Health Laboratory website.

Critical Information Required:

A completed Public Health Laboratory Requisition must accompany the specimen.

Storage and Shipment:

Do not refrigerate blood for mycobacterial culture, hold at room temperature.

Refrigerate all other specimens whenever possible if transport to the laboratory or specimen processing will be delayed more than one hour.

The specimen must be received within 24 hours of collection.