





# RESPIRATORY CULTURE

## Orderable – RESP

Turnaround Time: 2 days, Cystic patients: 4 days

### Specimen Type and Collection Information:

Specimen Type	Collection Information	Collection Device
Broncho-alveolar Lavage, Bronchial Wash	Transfer minimum of 1 mL to sterile container.	 Sterile container
Cystic Throat Swab	Remove the swab and avoid touching the swab applicator below the pink scored breakpoint. Collect the sample by rolling the swab over the site. Insert the swab all the way into the transport tube and, holding the end of the swab applicator, bend it toward you until it breaks off. Cap the tube and label appropriately.	
Sputum	Have the patient rinse mouth and gargle with water. Instruct the patient not to expectorate saliva or postnasal discharge. Collect an early morning specimen from a deep productive cough. Select blood-stained or purulent portion and send in a sterile container. (Minimum 1 mL)	 Sterile container
Tracheal Aspirate	Transfer trap contents to sterile container. (Minimum 1 mL)	 Sterile container



**Laboratory:**  
Microbiology



**Requisition:**  
Electronic Order



**Method of Analysis:**  
Culture



**Test Schedule:**  
Daily

For samples collected on Cystic Fibrosis or Bronchiectasis patients, select the **Specimen Type** that contains this information.

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London Health  
Sciences Centre



Pathology and Laboratory Medicine

## Comments:

Tracheal aspirates/Sputum (Adult):

If sample shows many epithelial cells, it will not be cultured as this indicates excessive oropharyngeal contamination.

## Storage and Shipment:

The specimen must be refrigerated.

The specimen must be received within 24 hours of collection.