

California Microbiological Reference Laboratory Inc.

Sample Collection Instructions

22511 Aspan Street, Ste. E Lake Forest, CA 92630
 Phone: (949) 726-1194 Website: calmicrolab.com Email: CalMicroLab@hotmail.com

Microbiology Services	Specimen	Container
<u>Fecal Analysis</u>		
Fecal Culture (All potential pathogens) / Rectal/(with Campylobacter wet mount)	Stool (>2 g)	Sterile Screw Top Container/ Swab in Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]
Fecal Culture Aerobic and/or Anaerobic(Clostridia)	Swab of Stool	Swab in Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]
Anal Gland Culture	Swab of Stool	Swab in Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]
Ova & Parasite Exam	Stool (>2 g)	Unpreserved: Sterile Screw Top Container
<u>Blood Cultures</u>		
Blood Culture	Blood (5 mL)	50 mL Blood Culture Media + 5 mL Sample in Blood Culture Bottle
<u>Urine Analysis</u>		
Urine Culture	Urine (4-6 mL)	Sterile Tube (4-6 mL of Urine)/ Swab of Sediment in Amies Transport Media
Urinalysis	Urine (4-6 mL)	Sterile Tube (4-6 mL of Urine)
<u>Culture Analysis</u>		
Aerobic Culture and Sensitivity	Clinical Sample	Swab in Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]/ Tissue in Sterile Tube with Sterile Saline
Aerobic Culture and Sensitivity & Anaerobic Culture	Clinical Sample	Swab in Amies Charcoal Transport Media/ Liquid Amies Transport Media/ Tissue in Sterile Tube with Sterile Saline

-Please feel free to call with questions regarding unusual samples.-

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Microbiology Services	Specimen	Container
<u>Fungal and Combo Analysis</u>		
Fungal Culture (Superficial Sources Hair/Nail)	Plucked Hair/ Nail Clippings	Sterile Tube [No Liquid Added]
Fungal Culture (Biphasic - Fastidious "Slow Growing" - Tissue or Swab)	Swab	Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]
	Tissue	Sterile Tube with Sterile Saline
Dermatology Survey (Bacteria & Fungi) [Combo Analysis]	Hair	Sterile Tube + Skin Swab
	Swab	Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]
	Tissue	Sterile Tube with Sterile Saline
<u>Miscellaneous Analysis</u>		
Acid Fast Stain	Slide	Slide Mailer
	Tissue	Sterile Tube with Sterile Saline
Mycobacterial Culture	Swab	Amies Transport Media [Gel or Liquid]
	Tissue(Preferred)	Sterile Tube with Sterile Saline
Gram Stain	Clinical Sample	Slide Mailer

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Notes:

1. For best results, **aerobic** samples should be stored at 4°C for up to 10 days. If shipping, ensure contact with ice pack.
2. Samples with suspected **anaerobic** bacteria should be placed immediately in charcoal Amies Transport Media and stored at room temperature; do not refrigerate. If shipping, ensure contact with ice pack. Biopsy samples or needle aspirates are the specimens of choice for anaerobic cultures.
3. Spinal fluid, genital, eye, and internal ear specimens should never be refrigerated.
4. Syringes with needles should never be transported to the laboratory. Contents of a syringe should be either transferred from the syringe to a sterile tube, or the needle should be removed (using a protective device), and the syringe recapped then placed in a sealable, leak-proof plastic bag.
5. Due to leakage, do not place large amounts of liquids into swab submissions. Please use a sterile tube for large quantities of liquids.