

Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB) Specimens

TB Specimen Collection:

1. Be sure to properly and clearly label the specimen tube with the patient's name, DOB, and date and time of collection.
2. Collect sputum early in the morning before the patient eats or drinks. It should be raised from the lungs, not saliva, and deposited directly into the furnished plastic container.
3. After collection, tighten the specimen tube cap to avoid breakage or leakage.
4. Complete a LimsNet entry for each specimen, ensuring that the patient information on the collection tube matches the information on the entry. Specimens lacking complete information will not be tested.
5. If a delay in shipping is anticipated, be sure to keep the specimens refrigerated at 4° C prior to shipping to minimize the growth of contaminants.

TB Specimen Packaging and Shipment:

Note: Specimens should be refrigerated at 4° C if held prior to shipping.

1. Use a UN3373 Biological Substance, Category B shipping container or 6A TB container provided by ISDH. ISDH containers may be obtained by phoning (317) 921-5875.
2. Wrap the labeled specimen collection tube with absorbent material and place in the inner plastic shipping canister, and tighten the lid securely.
3. Place the LimsNet coversheet or any other documents in the outer container or in a plastic bag to prevent contamination from specimen. The secondary packaging and paperwork should be placed in a rigid outer packaging, which should then be labeled with the designation "UN3373, Biological Substance, Category B". The package must also be labeled with both the sender's and consignee address and phone numbers, and also the name and phone number of the party responsible for shipping the package.
4. Complete the appropriate shipping label and affix to the outer mailer with a return address and all appropriate shipping labels. Specimens may be shipped via private service, such as UPS or Fed Ex, or USPS.
5. Specimens should be shipped to arrive at ISDH Monday through Friday. Shipping specimens which will be in transit during the weekend or holiday is not recommended.
6. All patient specimens should be packaged and labeled in accordance with federal shipping regulations, using Biological Substances, Category B. Please use the above packing instructions to assure compliance with both private carrier and D.O.T. shipping regulations and to minimize breakage and leakage of the specimen. Broken or leaking specimens present a biohazard and cannot be tested.
7. Specimens submitted by courier should be packaged securely to prevent breakage. Loose specimens in Ziploc bags increase the chance of breakage and biohazard. Broken or leaking specimens present a biohazard and cannot be tested.

DIRECT QUESTIONS TO: 317-921-5892

Mycobacterium Tuberculosis (TB) Isolates

TB Isolate Collection:

1. Submit a pure culture, preferably on an LJ slant or other appropriate media.
2. Petri plates will not be accepted.
3. Check the expiration date on the media to ensure product is acceptable and will continue to be acceptable once received at the ISDH laboratory.
4. Be sure to properly label the sample with at least the patient's name and date of collection.
5. Complete a LimsNet entry for each sample, ensuring that the patient information on the sample tube matches the information on the entry. Specimens lacking complete information will not be tested.
6. Confirmation testing is performed by HPLC or PCR, and drug susceptibility testing is performed on newly identified MTBC patients. MTBC samples will be sent to the Michigan Department of Health for genotyping studies.

TB Isolate Packaging and Shipment:

1. Handle all isolates of MTB Complex, or those suspected of being MTBC, at a Biosafety level 3.
2. If an isolate is a known member of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex, or if highly suspected to be in this group, then the isolated must be labeled and shipped as a Category A Infectious Substance, and must be packaged in accordance with all federal shipping regulations.
3. Complete the Shippers Declaration for Dangerous Goods Documentation and include at least three copies on the outside of the package.
4. Tighten the culture tube cap. Wrap tape around the tube cap to help prevent any leakage of the sample.
5. Wrap the labeled culture tube with absorbent material and place it in the watertight inner plastic shipping canister, and tighten the lid securely.
6. Place the documents, including LimsNet cover sheet, and the inner plastic shipping container inside of the rigid outer shipping container and tighten the lid securely.
7. The outside of the package must be clearly labeled with the "Category A, Infectious Substance" label, and with the designation "UN 2814 Infectious Substance, Affecting Humans". The package must also be labeled with both the sender's and consignee address and phone numbers, and also the name and phone number of the party responsible for shipping the package.
8. All Category A substances must be packaged and labeled in accordance with all federal shipping regulations and must comply with the shipping regulations of both the D.O.T. and the carrier (Fed Ex or other private carrier).
9. Isolates may be transported at ambient temperature.
10. Specimens should be shipped to arrive at ISDH Monday through Friday. Shipping samples which will be in transit during the weekend or holiday is not recommended.

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