

## Specimen Selection Guide

Disease	Specimen Selection		Transport Conditions	Storage Conditions
<b>Anthrax</b> <i>(Bacillus anthracis)</i>	Cutaneous	<b>Vesicular Stage:</b> Collect fluid on sterile swab(s). The organism is best demonstrated in this stage.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / Room Temp
		<b>Eschar Stage:</b> Without removing eschar, rotate and collect lesion material.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / Room Temp
	Gastrointestinal	<b>Stool:</b> Collect 5-10 g in a sterile, leakproof container.	≤ 1 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / 4°C
		<b>Blood:</b> Collect per institution's procedure for routine blood culture.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	Delayed entry may depend on instrument
	Inhalation (Pulmonary)	<b>Sputum:</b> Collect expectorated specimens into a sterile, leakproof container.	≤ 1 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / 4°C
		<b>Blood:</b> Collect per institution's procedure for routine blood culture.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	Delayed entry may depend on instrument
<b>Plague</b> <i>(Yersinia pestis)</i>	Pneumonic	<b>Sputum/throat:</b> Collect routine throat culture using a swab or expectorated sputum collected into sterile, leakproof container.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / 4°C
		<b>Bronchial/tracheal wash:</b> Collect per institution's procedure in an area dedicated to collecting respiratory specimen under isolation/containment circumstance, i.e., isolation chamber, "bubble".	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / 4°C
		<b>Blood:</b> Collect per institution's procedure for routine blood culture.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	Delayed entry may depend on instrument
<b>Tularemia</b> <i>(Francisella tularensis)</i>	Pneumonic	<b>Sputum/throat:</b> Collect routine throat culture using a swab or expectorated sputum collected into sterile, leakproof container.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / 4°C
		<b>Bronchial/tracheal wash:</b> Collect per institution's procedure in an area dedicated to collecting respiratory specimen under isolation/containment circumstance, i.e., isolation chamber, "bubble".	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	≤ 24 h / 4°C
		<b>Blood:</b> Collect per institution's procedure for routine blood culture.	≤ 2 h / Room Temp	Delayed entry may depend on instrument
<b>Smallpox</b> <i>(Variola virus)</i>	Rash	<b>Biopsy:</b> Aseptically place two to four portions of tissue into a sterile, leakproof, freezable container.	~ 1 h / 4°C	-20°C / -70°C
		<b>Scabs:</b> Aseptically place scrapings/material into a sterile, leakproof, freezable container.	~ 6 h / 4°C	-20°C / -70°C
		<b>Vesicular fluid:</b> Collect fluid from separate lesions onto separate sterile swabs. Be sure to include cellular materials from the base of each respective vesicle.	~ 6 h / 4°C	-20°C / -70°C