

Superficial Mycology Samples

- Container(s):** Submit samples using fungal collection kit.
- **Do not** use plastic containers or swabs.
- Collection instructions for Skin Scrapings:**
- Clean the affected area with 70% alcohol and allow to air dry.
 - Scrape the active periphery of the affected site with a scalpel blade.
 - Collect scrapings onto the black paper provided in the fungal collection kit
 - Minimum sample volume: at least 15 flakes of skin
 - Carefully fold the black paper so that the skin scrapings are enveloped inside. Scrapings must be clearly visible.
 - Place the folded black paper into the envelope and label as indicated below.
- Collection instructions for Nail Samples:**
- Clean the nail and nail bed with 70% alcohol and allow to air dry.
 - Use a scalpel to scrape the underside of the nail and nail bed onto the black paper provided in the fungal collection kit.
 - The initial scrapings of the outer surface should be discarded as they are usually contaminated.
 - Submit sample from the deeper portion and scrape affected nails deeply enough to obtain recently invaded nail tissue.
 - Also include whole nail clippings.
 - Carefully fold the black paper so the scrapings are enveloped inside
 - Place the folded black paper into the envelope and label as indicated below
- Collection instructions for Hair and Scalp Samples:**
- Use forceps to pull out (epilate) lusterless or broken hairs from affected areas of the scalp.
 - Minimum sample volume: at least 10 hair strands.
 - **Do not** collect hair by cutting. Organisms will be closer to the base.
 - Also include some skin scrapings from the affected area of the scalp. Collect onto the black paper provided in the kit.
 - Carefully fold the black paper so the hair and scrapings are enveloped inside.
 - Place the folded black paper into the envelope and label as indicated below.
- Labelling the specimen:** **Specimen container MUST be labelled with full first and last name AND personal health number or it will NOT be tested.**
- Label the collection container with ALL the following:
- The patient's **full first and last name**.
 - The patient's unique **personal health number** (Alberta PHN or ULI#). Date-of-birth is NOT sufficient.
 - **The date and time of specimen collection.**
- Delivery to Lab** Transport all samples and requisitions to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.

Questions? Call Alberta Precision Laboratories at 1-877-868-6848