See specific instructions in TESTS section of this manual.

**TRANSPORT:**

- Send specimens to the Lab as soon as possible to ensure the viability of organisms and their recovery.
- Specimens delayed in transit beyond 5 days are not processed.

**STORAGE:**

**Swabs:**
Refrigerate if they cannot be transported to the Lab within 24 hours.

**Urine:**
- In C&S transport tube – refrigerate or store at room temperature, send within 48h.
- Whole urine – refrigerate and send on ice within 24h.

**Feces:**
- Refrigerate or store at room temperature if unable to send within 24 hours.
  - Exception: C difficile – refrigerate if specimen cannot be transported to the Lab within 24 hours. After 48-72 hours store frozen at ≤ -10ºC. Transport on ice.

**Spinal Fluid:**
Store at room temperature and send to Lab immediately for testing within 2 hours of collection.

**Blood Culture Vials:**
Hold at room temperature until transport – DO NOT incubate or refrigerate.

**Fluids & Tissues for ROUTINE culture:**
Refrigerate if they cannot be transported to the Lab within 24 hours.

**Fluids & Tissues for ANAEROBIC culture:**
Store at room temperature if they cannot be transported to the Lab within 24 hours.

**Sputum/E-tube:**
Refrigerate if specimen cannot be transported to Lab within 24h.

**Bone:**
Refrigerate if specimen cannot be transported to Lab within 24h.