

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  $\leq -10^{\circ}\text{C}$ . 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.

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(Authorized individuals are: lab personnel designated in their zone/program or provincial role to produce print copies)

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