


Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, Public Health Laboratory Sample collection and transport guidelines

Record date: 21/03/2017

Sample labelling requirements: All samples must be labelled with:

1. Minimum of two identifiers.
2. Date of sample collection and sample source is essential.
3. Samples must be sent as per **NPAAC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PACKAGING AND TRANSPORT OF PATHOLOGY SPECIMENS AND ASSOCIATED MATERIALS (Fourth Edition 2013)**

Test type	Sample type	Minimum amount	Container type	Special Instructions	Transport	Request form
PCR for direct detection of selected bacterial pathogens	Blood	5ml	Potassium EDTA or sodium citrate blood.	Must arrive before 11am Seal tubes with parafilm (or equivalent) to prevent leakage. Place into a biohazard bag.	4°C Do not freeze	FM119 Human clinical
PCR for direct detection of selected bacterial pathogens detections	CSF	2ml 0.5ml minimum	CSF in sterile tube	Must arrive before 11am Seal with parafilm (or equivalent) to prevent leakage. Place tube into a biohazard bag	4°C Do not freeze	FM119 Human clinical
Bacterial Identification / or Risk Group 3 pathogen/ SSBA confirmation.	Bacterial cultures	Not applicable	Not applicable Ensure plate/broth is sealed with parafilm (or equivalent) and placed inside a biohazard bag Ensure associated paperwork is in the external pocket and not placed in with the sample	Culture on plate or agar slope Notify MDU before sending if suspect SSBA	Room temperature	FM119 Human clinical
Bacterial typing	Bacterial culture	Not applicable	Not applicable	Pure culture prepared from a single colony on non-selective agar or slope.	Room temperature	FM119 NEPSS if Salmonella
Legionella	Cooling tower waters	100ml	Sterile sampling bottle	Ideally, samples should be processed within 6 hours of collection. Record collection time on sample They may be examined up to 24 hours after collection, provided they are kept cool (2-10°C) and in the dark.	Esky with ice bricks	FM117 Water Request form

Test type	Sample type	Minimum amount	Container type	Special Instructions	Transport	Request form
Enteric pathogen screen and identification	Faeces	5g (minimum 1g)	Faecal container 	Fresh (preferably less than 24h old) No preservative to be added. Store at 4°C if unable to transport immediately	Esky with ice bricks	FM116 Faecal request form
Food pathogen screen and identification	Food	200g (absolute minimum 35g)	Original food container Sterile bag (sealed well to prevent leaks) Sterile container with lid		Esky with ice bricks	FM118 Food request form
Water pathogen screen and identification	Waters	250ml (routine testing taps, pools) 1 litre (pathogen testing Salmonella, Campylobacter etc)	Chlorinated waters - Sterile bacteriological sampling bottles, containing sodium thiosulphate to neutralize any chlorine in the water must be used Other waters: Sterile sampling bottle	Ideally, samples should be submitted within 6 hours of collection. They may be examined up to 24 hours after collection, provided they are kept cool (2-10°C) and in the dark.	Esky with ice bricks	FM117 Water Request form
Serology testing Diphtheria /Tetanus Yersinia and Amoebic serology	Serum	1ml	Sterile tube or serum separator tube	Only fresh non-inactivated sera (Hyperlipaemic, haemolytic, microbially contaminated and turbid sera MUST not be submitted)		
Strain typing or relatedness (Whole genome sequencing)	Bacterial cultures	Not applicable		Pure culture, prepared from a single colony, on non-selective agar Phone MDU to discuss requirements before sending	Room temperature	FM2634
Strain typing or relatedness (Whole genome sequencing)	DNA	50ul	Screw cap sterile microfuge tube	Sample must not contain EDTA in the buffer. Phone MDU to discuss requirements before sending	Esky with ice bricks	FM2673