



Hygienic Laboratory

The University of Iowa

Diphtheria (*Corynebacterium diphtheriae*) Culture

Submission Requirement

- Contact the Bacteriology Department at 319/335-4335 prior to specimen collection for collection and shipping consultation. This serves to alert us to incoming specimen, as we need special media for isolation.
- Label culturette with patient's name or unique identifier, specimen source, and the date of collection.
- UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.**
- A completed Bacteriology Test Request Form must accompany each specimen (i.e., one for the nasopharynx and one for the throat).

Specimen Collection and Handling

- Collect a specimen from the nasopharynx using a cotton or polyester-tipped wire shaft swab.
- Using a cotton or polyester-tipped swab (culturettes with Amies transport are acceptable), collect from several areas in the throat to increase the sensitivity of the culture.
- If membranes are present and can be removed, swab from beneath the membrane.
- Place the labeled culturette(s) into a biohazard bag.

Complete Test Request Form

- A Bacteriology Test Request Form must be filled out completely. Testing is dependent upon this information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided.

Shipping Instructions

- Include completed Bacteriology Test Request Form in side pocket of biohazard bag.
- Ship at ambient temperature via overnight transport to UHL at Oakdale Campus in Iowa City (See address below).** Shipping should take place so that receipt of the specimen at UHL is no longer than 24 hours from time of collection. If transport to the laboratory cannot be accomplished within 24 hours, call 319/335-4335.
- Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

Contact Information

- For test request forms: 319/335-4466
- For additional forms, go to <http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms>
- For *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* questions: 319/335-4335