



# Hygienic Laboratory

*The University of Iowa*

## Mycobacteria (AFB/TB) Culture

### Submission Requirement

- Two types of AFB/TB collection kits are available from UHL. MYCO GASTRIC for gastric washings and urine (contains a buffer) and MYCO for all other specimens (sputum, bronchial washing, etc.).
- Label specimen container 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 collected.

### Specimen Collection and Handling

- **Sputum:** Collection three early morning specimens on consecutive days (one per day). The healthcare professional must give instructions for producing sputum, especially for the first specimen. The patient's mouth should be clean before producing a specimen. Sputum should be coughed from deep in the chest and placed in the container provided. Pooled sputum specimens are unacceptable.
- **Bronchial washings, pleural fluid, etc.:** Place these in a MYCO specimen container.
- **Tissue specimens/Bronchial brushes:** Add 4-5 mL sterile saline to a MYCO specimen container, and add the specimen.
- **Gastric and urine specimens:** Add the specimen to a MYCO GASTRIC specimen container containing buffer.
- Screw the cap on tightly.
- Label the container with the patient name, specimen type and date of collection.
- Place the labeled container 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

- Place the completed Bacteriology Test Request Form in side pocket of biohazard bag.
- Ship at ambient temperature as soon as possible after collection.
- **SEND TO UHL at Oakdale Campus in Iowa City (See address below).**
- Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

### Contact Information

- For kit requests: 319/335-4466
- For additional forms, go to <http://www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms>
- For *Mycobacteria* questions: 319/335-4256