

## MYCOLOGY SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS

The Mycology Division provides diagnostic and reference services to both public and private health care providers. The laboratory is open Monday through Friday from 7:30 am - 4pm except on holidays. All specimens and cultures received by 12 noon will be handled that same day. Clinical specimens are held for four weeks before they are reported negative. If something suspicious or significant grows out during the 4 weeks, it will be identified and reported. The health care provider (HCP) will be notified by phone that a fungus has been isolated if determined to be significant. Referred cultures are held up to four weeks. A report is issued as soon as a definitive identification is made. If the culture does not sporulate during the four weeks, it is reported as "Sterile Mycelia".

### **Specimen Collection**

The Mycology division requires that all clinical specimens be submitted in a Corning™ orange capped centrifuge tube that is supplied by the lab. It must be accompanied by a Mycology form filled out completely with all 3 copies legible. Date of collection on the form and patient name on the specimen are mandatory by Federal Regulations. These may be shipped in a double walled container that meets USPS regulations. We provide mailing containers for clinical specimens to the County Health Dept. providers. Private providers must obtain their own mailers and we will return them as a service. The centrifuge tubes, forms, and Zorb™ sheets are provided upon request. The specimen is collected in the orange capped tube, wrapped with one Zorb™ sheet and placed in the inner container of the double walled container. The form is inserted between the inner and outer container, NOT in the inner container with the specimen. Do NOT mark the form "Culture identification" or "Inoc. media" when submitting clinical specimens. Mark only the source of the specimen on the form.

### **Non-sterile Specimen Collection**

Specimen tubes containing sputum, bronchial washings, gastric washings, urines and stools must contain no more than 5-10 ml.

### **Sterile Specimens**

All other specimens collected surgically are considered sterile. Please indicate the exact specimen source and site. Do not add any preservative to the specimen. Please identify all autopsy specimens as such.

### **Blood, Bone Marrow and CSF**

These specimens should remain at ambient temperature while in transit. Do not refrigerate.

### **Cultures for Identification**

Please refer to shipping regulations UN 6.2 for Category A (*Coccidioides immitis*) and UN 3373 for Category B (any other mold or yeast). Please mark the form "Culture identification".

### **Inoculated Media**

Specimens that are inoculated onto media and shipped immediately to the lab are monitored for growth only unless enough specimen is retrievable for processing. Please ship in double walled containers and please mark the form "Inoculated Media".

Please call the Mycology business number 334-260-3472 if you have any questions.