



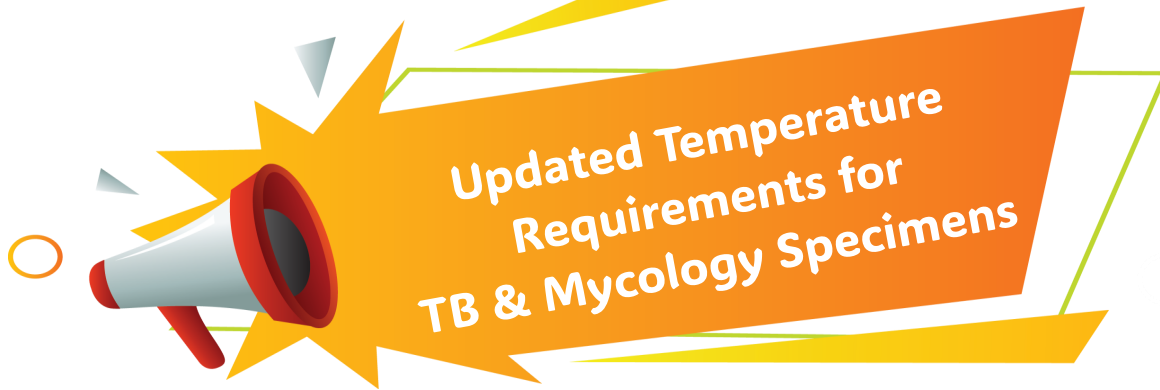
TECHNICAL BULLETIN

Bureau of Clinical Laboratories, Sharon P. Massingale, Ph.D., HCLD/CC (ABB) Director

January 2, 2024

Volume XXIV Issue 1

ATTENTION ALL PROVIDERS



- Effective January 2, 2024, to comply with CLIA regulations, all TB and Mycology specimens that arrive at the Bureau of Clinical Laboratories (BCL) must fall within the allowed temperature ranges as listed below:
 - **Coccidioides:**
 - pure culture (isolate): store at 15-38°C, ship at 2-38°C;
 - clinical specimens (blood, bone marrow, CSF, gastric fluid): store & ship at 15-25°C;
 - other clinical specimens: ≤24 hours store & ship at 2-25°C; >24 hours store & ship at 2-8°C.
 - **Coronavirus (COVID-19):**
 - clinical specimens (nasal/nasopharyngeal swab in viral transport media or nasal wash aspirates): store & ship at 2-8°C. Laboratory must receive specimens within three days of collection.
 - **Fungus (yeasts & molds):**
 - pure culture (isolate): store at 25-38°C, ship at 2-38°C;
 - clinical specimens (blood, bone marrow, CSF, gastric fluid): store & ship at 15-25°C;
 - other samples: ≤24 hours store & ship at 2-25°C, >24 hours store & ship at 2-8°C.
 - **Mycobacteria (Tuberculosis):**
 - pure culture (isolate): store 35-38°C, ship 2-38°C;
 - clinical specimens (blood, bone marrow aspirate, CSF): store & ship at 15-25°C. Do NOT freeze;
 - clinical specimen (gastric wash or lavage): neutralize with 100 mg of sodium carbonate within one hour of collection. Store & ship within three days at 15-25°C;
 - other clinical specimens: store & ship at 2-8°C. Do NOT freeze.
- Any specimens that fall outside the allowed temperature range for the requested test method will be marked unsatisfactory and not tested.
 - BCL staff will work with providers to help ensure specimens arrive at the laboratory within requirements.
- The revised *BCL Analyte List* with specimen requirements to include shipping temperatures and holding times for all specimens will be released in early 2024.

For questions regarding this bulletin,
contact the Mycobacteriology & Mycotics Division at 334-290-3089.

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