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Plating Protocol if Biological Safety Cabinet is Unavailable – Medical Center

Introduction

Standard practice dictates the use of a biological safety cabinet for processing of higher risk sterile site and respiratory specimens. The risk, however is lower for processing specimens as compared to working directly with colonies grown on cultures.

Scope

This procedure is intended for use only in an emergency when a biological safety cabinet is unavailable.

Policy

- Plating or preparation of a Gram stain of sterile site or respiratory specimens will be performed on a bench top without the use of a biological safety cabinet only when the cabinet is unavailable with the use of appropriate personnel protective equipment [PPE].
- The local laboratory will determine if this procedure will be utilized. If not, the specimens will be routed to the Regional Reference Laboratories Bacteriology department for processing. Adherence to transport time and temperature must be followed [refer to Medical Center Plating Chart or LabNet for complete information].
- A Bacteriology Manager will be contacted prior to sending unplated specimens to the Regional Reference Laboratory as respiratory specimens cannot be set-up without a Q-Score [the exception is the Neutropenic Patient procedure]

Equipment

- Gloves
- Lab Coat
- Face shield
- N-95 Respirator

NOTE: Individuals must be medically cleared and fit tested before donning any respirator.

Safety Precautions

Refer to the Safety Manual for general safety requirements.

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Plating Protocol if Biological Safety Cabinet is Unavailable – Medical Center, continued

Plating or preparing gram stain at the workbench

Ensure that the workbench area is secure and that no other personnel walk or perform other activities which might cause air disturbance within **6 feet** of the area where the plating or preparation of the gram stain slide is taking place.

Centrifugation

Sterile site (excluding tissue specimens) and bronchial respiratory specimens (such as bronchial lavage) require cytocentrifugation prior to gram stain preparation or media inoculation.

Step	Action
1	Centrifuge the specimen in a sterile capped conical centrifuge tube at 1500xg for 15 minutes.
2	After centrifugation, remove the supernatant leaving ~0.5 ml in the bottom of the centrifuge tube.
3	Suspend the pellet by agitation of the tube
4	Inoculate the media
5	Prepare the Gram stain

Transport to the Regional Reference Laboratory

Refer to the Medical Center Media Plating Chart or LabNet for transportation requirements.

BSC Repair

Ensure the Biological Safety Cabinet is functioning optimally [as soon as possible] in order to return to standard practice. Refer to the BSC Certification Report provided by the vendor [e.g. CEPA].

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Controlled Documents

Regional Parent Document Reference Number: SCPMG-PPP-0128 Rev. 03

- LabNet
- Medical Center Media Plating Chart

Non-Controlled Documents

- BSC Certification Report [e.g. CEPA]

Authors

Richard Weier
Susan Novak
Reformatted by Rebecca Rosser
Updated by Rebecca Rosser and Mickey Amos

Signature Manifest

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Review: SBMC-PPP-0042 03 Plating Protocol if Biological Safety Cabinet is Unavailable – Medical Center

Review

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Qiyamaa Portillo (K237031)	Assistant Director Operations	20 Mar 2020, 11:20:59 AM	Reviewed
Janice Wolf (K119893)	Director Operations Area Lab	03 Apr 2020, 12:19:54 PM	Reviewed