

Processing Sterile Site or Respiratory Specimens if a 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 or specimens concentrated through centrifugation.

Scope This procedure is intended for use only in an emergency when a biological safety cabinet is unavailable and proper Person Protective Equipment [PPE] are used.

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.
- The local laboratory will determine if this procedure will be utilized. If not, the specimens will be routed to the Regional Reference Laboratory 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 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 or respiratory specimens [such as bronchial lavage] gram stains require cytocentrifugation. Cytocentrifugation should only be performed inside a Biological Safety Cabinet [BSC].

If...	Then...
if the BSC is unavailable	Centrifuge the specimen in a sterile capped conical centrifuge tube at 1500xg for 15 minutes. After centrifugation, remove the supernatant leaving ~0.5 ml in the bottom of the centrifuge tube. Resuspend the pellet and use for media inoculation and Gram stain preparation. NOTE: this method is slightly less sensitive than cytocentrifuge but is an acceptable method when a STAT Gram stain is required.

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].

Controlled Documents

- Medical Center Media Plating Chart
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**Non-
Controlled
Documents**

- BSC Certification Report [e.g. CEPA]
- LabNet

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Reviewed and approved by (for Medical Center Area Approval Only):

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HISTORY PAGE

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Signature Manifest

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Final Approval

Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
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Name/Signature	Title	Date	Meaning/Reason
Rebecca Rosser (K053260)	RRL ED CONSULTANT	26 Sep 2016, 11:19:01 AM	Approved