**Processing of Viral Specimens (STP)**

**Leave swabs in VTM, do NOT discard** Specimens are sent to MPLS after processing for testing **EXCEPT for: DFLU and REIA** which are tested in STP.

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| Source | Specimen | Processing |
| Blood | 3-5ml EDTA blood **Store whole blood at RT** | Send to MPLS at Room temp |
| Bronchial washings | 1 ml | Mix 1:2 with VTM, vortex and refrigerate. |
| Body fluids: peritoneal dialysate, pleural fluid, pericardial fluid, joint fluid | 1 ml | Send in sterile tube. If specimen is grossly bloody or <0.6ml mix 1:2 with VTM. Refrigerate |
| CSF | 1 ml | Send in original tube (parafilm cap) or aliquot to sterile tube as necessary. **DO NOT PUT IN VTM.** |
| Eye: Conjunctiva | Culturette | Place swab in VTM. Vortex and refrigerate |
| Eye: Vitreous fluid | 0.5-1.0 ml | Dilute 1:2 with VTM if 0.5 - 1.0 ml received. If <0.5ml received add VTM to a volume of 0.5ml |
| Genital | Culturette | Place swab in VTM. Vortex and refrigerate |
| Nasopharyngeal | Culturette (2 minitip swabs) | Place 2 swabs into VTM. DO NOT DISCARD SWABS. Vortex and refrigerate. |
| Nasal Washing | 1 ml | Place washings in VTM. If wash volume is >2ml, mix equal volume of VTM and specimen. If volume is <=0.5ml or acellular, remove 1ml of VTM before adding nasal wash. Perform rapid testing if ordered, refrigerate VTM and send to MPLS for storage. Vortex and refrigerate if no rapid testing ordered.  |
| Rectal Swabs | Culturette | Place swab in VTM. Vortex and refrigerate |
| Stool VIRC | MAXIMUM Pea-sized aliquot of stool or 1ml liquid stool  | Place stool in thawed 9 ml VTM. (if <= 1/2 pea-sized or<= 0.5ml use 3 mL VTM) Vortex very well to homogenize and refrigerate. |
| Stool ROTA | 3-4 gm/2ml liquid stool  | Refrigerate and send to MPLS for testing |
| Skin & Vesicle | Culturette | Place swab in VTM. Vortex and refrigerate |
| Source | Specimen | Processing |
| Sputum, ETT | Specimen in sterile container | Place specimen (up to 0.5ml) into VTM. Vortex very well to homogenize and refrigerate. |
| Throat | Culturette | Place swab in VTM. Vortex and refrigerate |
| Tissue | Autopsy or Biopsy | Cut tissue into small fragments with sterile forceps and scissors. Place tissue into stomacher with 3ml VTM. After stomaching, place tissue and all media back into labeled VTM tube. (3mls required). Refrigerate specimen. |
| Urine | Fresh refrigerated urine | Add 3-10 ml urine to Urine Viral Transport Media (White label) . For <3ml of urine, add 1.5-3 ml of urine to Low Volume Urine Transport Media (Fluorescent yellow label). Vortex and refrigerate. |

Historical Record

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| Version | Written/Revised by | Date | Summary of revisions |
| 1 | Helen Stefan | 10/26/2010 | Initial Version |
| 2 | Helen Stefan | 6/7/2015 | Renumbered for CMS |
| 3 | Helen Stefan | 6/29/2017 | Add send CSF in original container, remove 30 minute incubation step for NW rapids, add that specimens will be sent to MPLS after processing. |
| 4 | Helen Stefan | 10/31/18 | Added send ROTA to MPLS for testing, volume for blood  |