



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Sputum or Bronchoalveolar Lavage-like specimens (BAL) for Film Array Pneumonia Panel Test #6620

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2 °C – 8 °C / 36 °F – 46 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 1 day (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory)

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (15 °C – 25 °C / 59 °F – 77 °F)

Expiration: NA

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Sputum: 1 mL to 2 mL sputum, including induced and expectorated sputum as well as endotracheal aspirate (ETA). If specimen is induced, note that on the requisition.

Bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL)-like specimens: 1 mL to 2 mL BAL collected according to standard technique.

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

6620: Pneumonia PCR Panel

REJECTION CRITERIA

- holding time greater than 24 hours
- specimen container not labeled
- specimen container has leaked or is not sealed properly
- volume less than 1 mL

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Rinse throat and mouth with water (do not brush teeth or use mouthwash).
2. Cough very deeply and collect between 1 mL and 2 mL of sputum into the specimen tube. Sputum is the mucus material from inside the lungs. Do not collect saliva or nasal discharge.
3. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube. If the cap is crooked, your specimen may leak and will be rejected.
4. Label the tube with the patient's name, date of birth, date collected and time collected.
5. Place the specimen tube inside the inner, clear specimen bag and seal the bag tightly.
6. Place the bagged specimen inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.
7. Fill out the requisition form completely. Fold it in half once (no staples please) and place in the outer pocket of the biohazard specimen bag (not inside the zippered pouch with the specimen).
8. Transport to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection.

