



Consideration for Storage and Shipment Instructions *Legionella* Testing At Public Health Laboratories

A. Storage

- Consider storing respiratory specimens and *Legionella* isolates for additional characterization at public health laboratories.
- For storage:
 - Respiratory specimens should be frozen at $\leq -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ immediately after collection.
 - Clinical *Legionella* isolates should be stored on BCYE slants or plates

B. Lab Submission

- Consultation regarding CDPH support for *Legionella* testing is required prior to initiation of specimen submissions.
- CDPH may coordinate submission of stored specimens to IDPH public health laboratory.
- Contact Chicago Department of Public Health:
 - Karrie-Ann Toews (312-746-6152); Karrie-Ann.Toews@cityofchicago.org, or
 - Antea Cooper (312-746-6181) ; Antea.Cooper@cityofchicago.org

C. Shipping of clinical specimens and isolates

- **Prepare materials** for shipment according to the following guidelines:
 - Each clinical specimen and isolate must be shipped with a DASH form (CDC Form 50.34: <http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/pdf/form-50-34.pdf>).
 - Each specimen submitted should be accompanied by the IDPH laboratory test requisition form: <http://www.dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/formsohp-labscd-test-requisition.pdf>
 - Clinical **specimens** should be shipped at -20°C (dry ice or super cold packs).
 - Clinical *Legionella* **isolates** should be shipped on BCYE slants or plates at 4°C (regular cold packs).
 - Respiratory specimens should be frozen immediately after collection.

- After receiving approval from CDPH, submit specimens to:

Chicago labs ship to:

Outside of Chicago labs ship to:

Illinois Department of Public Health	Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Laboratories	Division of Laboratories
Attn: Clinical Microbiology	Attn: Clinical Microbiology
2121 W. Taylor Street	825 N. Rutledge Street
Chicago, IL 606012	Springfield, IL 62702
312-793-4760	217-782-6562

Submission should be arranged to arrive at IDPH Laboratory Monday through Friday, 8am-4pm.

Email confirmation of shipment and courier tracking number to:

Karrie-Ann Toews at Karrie-Ann.Toews@cityofchicago.org or Antea Cooper at Antea.Cooper@cityofchicago.org

Legionella SPECIMEN HANDLING GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TESTING

	Specimen Type*	
	Legionella Isolate	Respiratory Specimens (sputum, BAL, tracheal aspirate, lung tissue, and others)
Specimen Minimum Requirements	Prior identification as presumptive <i>Legionella</i> genus	BAL & tracheal aspirate: 500µl Other samples as available
Specimen Preparation	Visible growth on BCYE agar	Fresh frozen (not formalin-fixed) tissue preferred
Short-term Storage Before Shipping	≤14 days at 4°C	Freeze immediately at ≤-20°C
Long-term Storage Before Shipping	Freeze at ≤-20°C or Re-streak on fresh agar (consult with CDC)	Freeze at ≤-20°C
Shipping Conditions	Ship BCYE agar slants or plates with visible growth at 4°C (regular cold packs)	Ship frozen at ≤-20°C (dry ice or super cold packs rated for temps below -70°C)
CDC Lab Services Available	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>L. pneumophila</i> serogroup determination 2. Monoclonal antibody typing 3. <i>Legionella</i> species determination based on macrophage infectivity potentiator (mip) sequencing 4. Multiplex PCR for detection of <i>Legionella</i> spp., <i>L. pneumophila</i>, and <i>L. pneumophila</i> serogroup 1 5. Additional non-CLIA approved molecular assays upon consultation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Culture (resulting isolates may be tested as described under legionella isolate CDC Lab Services) 2. PCR 3. DFA

*These are the only specimen types accepted by this lab. NP/OP swabs or any other specimens are NOT accepted.