

**AFB Culture & Smear Specimen Requirements**  
**LAB6617**

**Note:** For blood, order AFB Blood Culture (LAB6591)

**Container type:** Sterile, leak proof container. Do not use waxed container.

**Transport:** Blood and bone marrow: ambient

Other specimens: refrigerated. Specimens may be held at 2-8°C up to 2 weeks.

Specimen	Recommended Quantity	Special Instructions
Body Fluid	Adult: >10 mL Child (<14 yrs.): ≥1 mL	If specimen might clot, place in sterile <u>sodium</u> heparin tube. ( <i>Lithium heparin and EDTA are unacceptable.</i> )
Bone Marrow	As much as possible	Collect aseptically in <u>sodium</u> heparin; <b><i>Lithium heparin is unacceptable.</i></b> DO NOT REFRIGERATE; transport at ambient temperature.
Bronchial	Washing: Adult: ≥5 mL Child (<14 yrs.): ≥1 mL	
Gastric	5-10 mL	Collect early morning fasting specimen on 3 consecutive days.
Spinal Fluid	3-10 mL	
Sputum	5-10 mL	Patient should rinse the mouth out vigorously with WATER, NOT mouth wash, before producing sputum.  Obtain at least 3 consecutive sputum specimens, each collected in 8-24 hour intervals, with at least one being an early morning specimen because respiratory secretions pool overnight  <b>Unacceptable:</b> More than one specimen in an 8 hour period.
Stool	Pea-sized amount	
Swabs/Skin		Swabs are the least desirable specimens for isolation of Mycobacteria. Whenever possible, tissue biopsies or aspirated material is recommended from skin lesions and other sources.
Tissue		
Urine	Adult: >40 mL Child (<14 yr): 10 mL	3 clean catch early morning specimens are recommended.