



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Herpes Swab Collection Kit – **For Amplification testing**

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: Refrigerated or Room Temperature (2°C - 30°C / 35.6°F – 86°F)

Maximum Holding Time: 36 days

Exceptions: If needed store specimen at -20°C to -70°C for up to 36 days

KIT STORAGE

Temperature: room temperature (15°C – 30 °C / 59 °F – 86 °F)

Expiration: kit must be used prior to expiration date listed on kit label

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Swab of anogenital or oral lesion: swab in **Aptima® Multitest Swab Specimen Collection Kit (STM)**.

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT 6800: Herpes

Virus 1 and 2 Amplification

REJECTION CRITERIA

- Holding time greater than 36 days
- Specimen container not labeled
- Specimen container has leaked or is not sealed properly
- Swab specimens that are missing the swab, contain multiple swabs, or contain the wrong swab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

Optimal specimen collection time is within the first 3 days after appearance of the vesicular lesion. Prior to specimen collection, patients should avoid topical treatments as these may reduce virus yield.

1. Swab affected area:
 - a. Vesicular Lesion: Wipe vesicle with saline. Disrupt vesicle and collect fluid with swab. With same swab, collect cells from the base of the lesion.
 - b. Non-Vesicular Lesion: Pre-moisten swab with saline. Collect cells from base of the lesion.
2. Place swab into **Aptima Multitest Swab Transport Medium (STM)**.
3. Place the collection tube inside the zippered portion of the biohazard specimen bag and seal tightly.
4. 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).
5. Transport to the laboratory after collection. Specimen is stable in STM for 36 days.