



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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www.slopublichealth.org/lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Fungus and Yeast Culture and Identification

Tests 3905, 3910

The County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory provides the most definitive identification possible for filamentous fungi and yeasts while also providing results in a timely fashion.

1. Specimen Collection and Transport, Mycology Culture: TEST 3905

- Collect the specimen aseptically and place in a sterile container. Specimens can include tissue, aspirates, skin scrapings, and certain situations swabs
- For optimal specimen processing deliver specimen(s) *as soon as possible* once collected.
- Transport specimens in sterile, humidified, leak-proof containers.
- Only dermatological specimens can be transported in a dry container.

2. Specimen Collection and Transport, Mycology Isolate Identification: TEST 3910

- A pure culture isolate is preferred for Identification.
- If more than one fungal or yeast type has been demonstrated by culture, document test request with a description of the isolate that is to be identified.
- Any transport medium that supports the growth of the organism is acceptable. This includes culture plates and tubes.
- All cultures containers submitted should be securely taped shut and double bagged.
- Transport at refrigerator temperature.
- On receipt, isolates (except for suspect *Coccidioides*) will be examined microscopically with a Lacto-Phenol Cotton Blue mount upon arrival to the Public Health Laboratory and reported.
- Suspect *Coccidioides* specimens will be tested by MALDI-TOF and/or referred to a reference laboratory for definitive identification.

3. Please provide information to assist with identification

- Please provide clinical information and patient history (if available)
- Specimen source (anatomic site)

For consultation on selection, collection and transport of specimens, test orders and interpretation of reports, call (805) 781-5510 and ask for a microbiologist.