



# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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## SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

### Herpes Swab Collection Kit – For Virus Culture

#### SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature: refrigerated (2 °C - 8 °C / 35.6 °F – 46.4 °F)

Maximum Holding Time: 72 hours (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 (2 °C – 25 °C / 35.6 °F – 77 °F)

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

#### ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Swab of Vesicular Lesion: swab in viral transport medium (VTM)

Cervical Swab: swab in viral transport medium (VTM)

Mucosal Swab: swab in viral transport medium (VTM)

Conjunctival Swab: swab in viral transport medium (VTM)

#### TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

6010: Herpes Virus Culture

Note: DFA typing is run automatically on any positive herpes virus culture

#### REJECTION CRITERIA

- holding time greater than 72 hours
- 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 viral transport medium (VTM).
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 within 72 hours of collection.

#### collection swabs & viral transport medium (VTM) tube

