

9. SPECIMEN COLLECTION

All clinical specimens are considered potentially infectious and shall be handled carefully to prevent contamination.

All specimens submitted to the laboratory for testing must be packaged in such a manner as to prevent spillage, breakage, or damage to the specimen itself, and/or to accompanying specimens. The safety of the environment, and the safety of all persons involved in the shipping, handling and receiving of these specimens must be ensured by preventing exposure to the contents of the shipment at any time.

Specimens and requisitions must be labelled to comply with receiving laboratory's acceptance policy.

Specimens shall be transported to the laboratory in sealable zipper storage bags (e.g., Ziploc®).

Each specimen must have its own requisition. Requisitions shall be placed in the exterior pouch of the sealable zipper storage bag (e.g., Ziploc®) for transport.

Consider [Personal Protective Equipment](#) when collecting specimens.

Perform [hand hygiene](#) immediately before and after specimen collection.





9.1. Process

Specimens will be rejected for analysis for the following reasons:

- Specimens that cannot be safely processed, i.e., specimens with needle attached
- Improperly transported specimens
- Improperly labelled specimens
- Improper specimen collection
- Samples that are inappropriate for the test requested

**Specific rejection criteria exist depending on the specimen type;
Consult the laboratory for further information**