

Virus Identification (Culture)	
Test description	Detection and identification of viruses isolated from culture of human specimens
Test use	Diagnosis of viral infections
Test department	Virology Phone: (860) 920-6662, FAX (860) 920-6661
Methodology	Isolation in cell culture and identification by fluorescent microscopy or PCR
Availability	Daily, Monday-Friday
Specimen requirements	Swab of suspected infected site submitted in viral transport media (e.g. M4RT). Use only synthetic polyester or Dacron-tipped swabs with plastic or aluminum shafts. DO NOT USE calcium alginate or cotton-tipped swabs. Body fluid specimens (e.g. CSF or BAL) require 2 mL in a sterile leak-proof (screw-capped) container
Collection kit/container	To obtain collection kit, refer to Collection Kit Ordering Information
Collection instructions	Specimens should be collected as soon as possible after symptom onset, when the greatest concentration of virus is expected to be present (3-7 days). Follow standard aseptic collection procedures and immediately place swab into viral transport media.
Specimen handling & transport	Store and transport at 2°-8° C up to 3 days*. Transport with an ice pack coolant. Avoid temperature extremes. Transport frozen on dry ice if receipt at lab is expected to be >3 days from collection. (Note limitation described below) *Blood for culture should be kept at room temperature
Unacceptable conditions	Unlabeled specimens Specimens that have leaked or containers that have broken in transit Specimens not collected, handled, stored, or transported as described above
Requisition form	Clinical Test Requisition (select Virus Identification (Culture))
Required information	Name and address of submitter (and/or Horizon profile #) Patient name or identifier, town of residence (city, state, zip), date of birth Specimen type or source, date collected, test requested Please ensure patient name on requisition matches that on the specimen
Limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only live virus will be detected; a negative result does not rule out the presence of a virus in the specimen • Specimens not maintained at temperatures <8C and not received in the laboratory within 72 hours of collection may lead to a decrease in viral load and possible false negative results • Freezing may be detrimental to viability of CMV and RSV; freezing at higher temperatures is detrimental to viral viability
Additional comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of an isolate is greatest when the specimen closely relates to the affected target organ • Specimens for viral culture should be collected ASAP after symptom onset; protect from drying or thermal inactivation

Revision: 8/15/2017