



## Pre-Analytical Considerations for Fungal Cultures Sent to FTL

**Printed copies are for reference only. Please refer to the electronic copy for the latest version.**

### Acceptable Specimens:

The Fungus Testing Laboratory accepts cultures of fungi (yeasts and molds) for antifungal susceptibility testing and fungal species identification. Direct specimens (e.g., tissues, biological fluids) and swabs are not accepted. All fungal cultures should be inspected to ensure they are free of contamination with other fungi or bacteria and viable prior to shipping. All cultures received by the Fungus Testing Laboratory will also be assessed for purity and viability. If contamination is noted, additional work may be required to purify the culture prior to testing, and this may delay turn-around-time for results or cancelation of testing. A completed Fungus Testing Laboratory requisition form must be sent with each specimen.

### Shipping Specimens:

It is preferred that fungal cultures be shipped on slants, which are considered safer for transport, instead of plates. Cultures of fungi should be shipped at room temperature and not frozen. The Fungus Testing Laboratory is able to receive specimens on Mondays through Fridays, but not on Saturdays or Sundays.

**Please do not ship for Saturday delivery.**

The shipment of specimens should comply with regulatory and accreditation requirements from local, national, and international authorities, and these have specific requirements for packaging and labeling materials. The submitting laboratory is responsible for following these requirements.

Additional information regarding shipping requirements can be found using the links below:

[https://asm.org/ASM/media/Policy-and-Advocacy/images/CPHMC\\_PackAndShip\\_Guideline.pdf?ext=.pdf](https://asm.org/ASM/media/Policy-and-Advocacy/images/CPHMC_PackAndShip_Guideline.pdf?ext=.pdf)

<https://lsom.uthscsa.edu/pathology/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2018/12/Procedure-for-shipping-Specimens-to-FTL-1.pdf>

### Growth Media:

The following growth media are acceptable for submission of cultures:

- Sabouraud dextrose agar (SDA)
- Sabouraud dextrose agar Emmons
- Sabouraud dextrose agar with antibiotics (chloramphenicol and/or gentamicin)
- Potato dextrose agar (PDA)
- Potato flake agar (PFA)



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- Inhibitory mold agar (IMA)
- Blood agar
- Brain heart infusion agar (BHI)
- Tryptic soy agar (TSA)

Please contact the Fungus Testing Laboratory if these types of growth media are not available for submission of cultures prior to submitting cultures on another type of medium (Telephone number: 210-567-4131).

### **Reference:**

CLSI. *Principles and Procedures for Detection and Culture of Fungi in Clinical Specimens*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. CLSI guideline M54. Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute; 2021.