



Environmental Legionella Culture Sample Collection Instructions

1. **Suspected Case Investigation.** Optimal sensitivity is desirable in the context of a case investigation; therefore, two samples, water and swab, should be collected from the same water outlet(s) in the immediate environment of a suspected case.
2. **Routine Monitoring.** For routine environmental surveillance, one sample, either swab or water (or a combination of the two), of an outlet is acceptable.
3. **Post-disinfection Monitoring.** Ongoing surveillance for monitoring the efficacy of disinfection efforts should include previously positive locations for follow up testing.



Potable Water

1. Complete the requisition form provided (online form is also available at www.specialpathogenslab.com).
2. Use waterproof pen to label bottle and swab with sample location, description, and date.
3. Remove aerator if present. Moisten the outlet by turning on the hot water – briefly. Insert swab into faucet opening rotating four (4) times against the inner surface as it moves up into the opening (for showerhead, rotate swab over entire surface of showerhead 4 times).
4. Turn on hot water and immediately **fill** the bottle (≥ 120 ml). If combining swab with water, insert swab (taken from same location) into bottle and vigorously swirl for approximately 30 seconds and discard. Close bottle and invert to mix neutralizer. Otherwise, replace swab into transport tube. If no liquid media is in the tube, add a few milliliters of water from the sample source.
5. Place samples in shipping pouch with absorbent material -close pouch using zip lock seal.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 with next sample location.



Hot Water Storage Tanks

1. Open the drain valve at the base of the heater or tank and immediately collect ≥ 120 ml of the flowing water into the sample bottle.
2. Let the water continue to drain for 15-30 seconds to flush out residual water within the drain pipe. Collect another ≥ 120 ml sample into a second sample bottle.
3. Submit both samples, labeled **Immediate** and **Post Flush**.

Note: Swabs are not considered an appropriate sample for hot water tanks.



Cooling Towers

- Submerge open bottle just under the surface of water to obtain ≥ 120 ml of sample.

Note: Swabs are not considered an appropriate sample for routine testing of cooling towers.



Special Pathogens Laboratory

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Shipping Instructions

1. Ship the same day samples are collected
2. Sample(s) may be refrigerated (2-8° C) overnight if necessary.
3. Seal thermal pouch and place in box.
4. Place completed requisition in box (outside of thermal shipping pouch)
5. **SHIP OVERNIGHT MONDAY – THURSDAY ONLY** to:

Special Pathogens Laboratory
1401 Forbes Avenue, Suite 209
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Call the lab at 412-281-5335 with any questions