

Laboratory Test Update



Viral Culture

Effective November 2, 2015, St. Luke's Laboratory will begin referring Viral Culture testing to Mayo Medical Laboratory. Two tests will be offered:

- **Virus Culture, Non-Respiratory**
- **Virus Culture, Respiratory**

Acceptable Sources for Virus Culture, Non-Respiratory:

- Body Fluids in a sterile container
- Ocular or rectal swabs in viral transport media
- Spinal fluid in a sterile vial
- Stool in a sterile container
- Tissue in a sterile container with 1-2 mL of sterile saline
- Urine (mumps only)
- Dermal swab (Enterovirus only) in viral transport media

Acceptable Specimens for Viral Culture, Respiratory:

- Lower respiratory tract specimens (BAL, Bronchial washings or aspirates, sputum, etc.) in a sterile container.
- Throat swab in viral transport media.
- Tissue in a sterile container with 1-2 mL of sterile saline
- Oral swab in viral holding media.

A specific Herpes Simplex Virus culture is still available. Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing is available for many specific viral targets and in many cases is preferred over viral culture. The St. Luke's Laboratory Test catalog contains more detailed information regarding all of the options for viral testing. <http://stlukeslaboratory.testcatalog.org/>.

If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Viergutz, MBA, MA, MT(ASCP) (218)249-5724
Laboratory Operations Manager.