

Laboratory Medicine Care Division

Mycology

Fungal culture – respiratory specimens

Respiratory specimens including broncho-alveolar lavage fluid, bronchial washes and endotracheal aspirates, paranasal lavage fluid, induced sputum, and sputum.

General information

Turnaround time:

Culture result (species detected or negative) is provided as soon as growth is detected and identified. Generally, results are available by 14 days, but culture of some specimens may be extended up to 4 weeks.

Susceptibility test turnaround times depend on when the culture is available for testing. Typically, this is an additional 3-5 days.

Sample type/container:



Collect into appropriate UKCA/CE-marked sterile leakproof containers and transport in sealed plastic bags.

Do not submit samples with Trap tubing still attached. These samples are prone to leaking and may be discarded.



Transportation

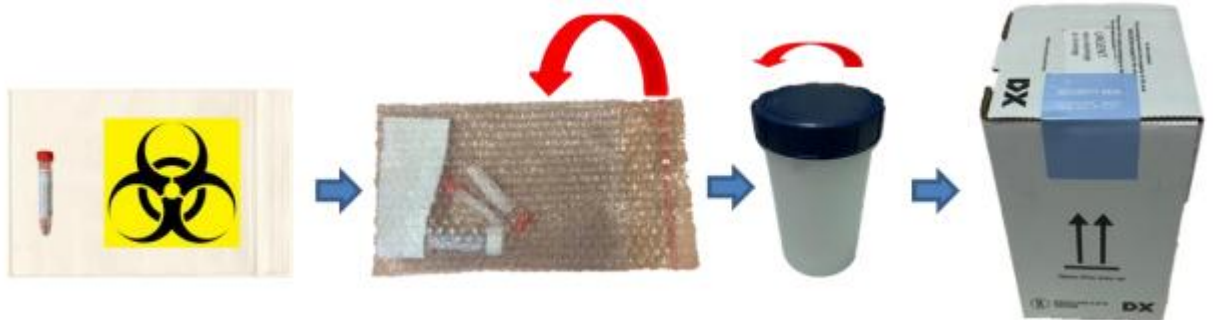
- Samples should be placed into a plastic Ziploc bag, sealed, and then placed into another sealed plastic Ziploc bag (preferably with a biohazard label on the outside), as shown below.



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- Category B transport boxes or an appropriate transport bag (i.e., one which adheres to regulations governing the transportation of diagnostic specimens) must be used for transport by road or between Manchester University Foundation Trust sites (but are not necessary within Wythenshawe hospital grounds).
- Please see below for packaging requirements.



For more information - <https://mrcm.org.uk/sample-collection/>

Laboratory Information

Biological interval/clinical decision values: N/A

Clinical Information

All specimens should be fresh and taken before antifungal treatment is started, where possible. Provide details about any ongoing or recent antifungal therapy.

Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible. Long transportation times may result in overgrowth of some fungi inhibiting the growth or masking the presence of others.

(Last updated May 2026)