Fungal culture – tissue specimens

General information

Turnaround time:

Culture result (species detected or negative) is provided as soon as growth is detected and identified. Generally, preliminary results are available by 14 days, but culture 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 tissue or biopsy material (including punch biopsies) in appropriate UKCA/CE-marked sterile leakproof container **WITHOUT** formalin and transport in sealed plastic bags.

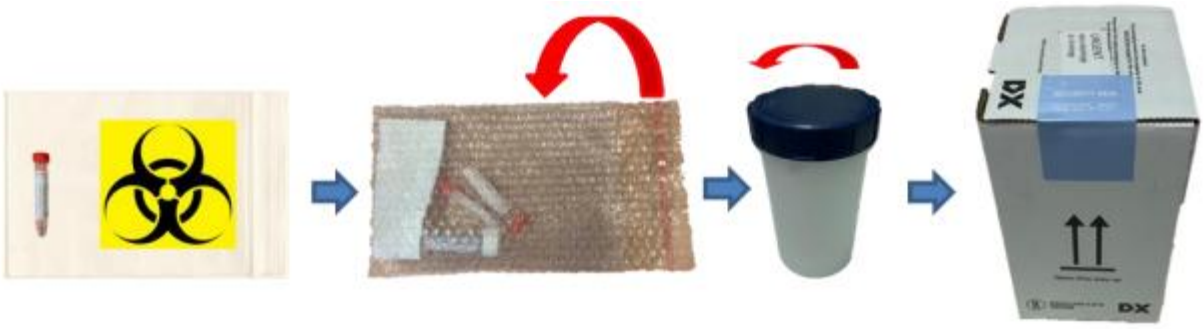
Transportation

- 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.



- 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

Collect specimens before antifungal therapy is started, where possible. Provide details about any ongoing or recent antifungal therapy.

Use aseptic technique.

Specimens received in formalin-containing saline are not suitable for culture.

If the specimen is small, place it in a small volume (e.g., 1-5 ml) sterile water or saline to prevent desiccation.

Specimens should be transported and processed as soon as possible. If processing is delayed, refrigeration is preferable to storage at ambient temperature. Delays of over 48 hours may affect the sensitivity of the test.

(Last updated May 2026)