**Legionella Culture/DFA**

**Specimen Collection and Shipping Instructions**

**Submission Requirements**

1. Appropriate patient specimens include:
   a. Sputum—either expectorated or suctioned
   b. Tracheal Aspirates\(^1\)
   c. Bronchoscopy specimens\(^1\)
   d. Biopsy specimens
   e. Pericardial, peritoneal, or pleural fluid\(^2\)
   f. Lung tissue from autopsy

2. All other specimens, call (319) 335-4335 for consultation before submission

3. Specimens must arrive at SHL within 24 hours of specimen collection and during SHL business hours: 8-5, M-F.

4. Label container with patient name or unique identifier, age or date of birth (DOB), and date and time of collection. UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.

5. A completed **Bacteriology Test Request Form** must accompany the specimen.

\(^1\)A minimum volume of 3 ml of fluid specimens is required.

\(^2\)A minimum volume of 5 ml of fluid specimens is required.

**Specimen Collection and Handling**

1. Collect specimen in a sterile container.

2. For tissue or biopsy specimens add a small amount of sterile, non-bacteriostatic distilled water to prevent desiccation. DO NOT ADD SALINE, as it may be inhibitory.

3. Refrigerate until shipped.

4. Wrap specimen container in absorbent material, and place into a biohazard bag.

**Test Request Form**

1. Complete **Bacteriology Test Request Form**, including all patient identifiers, by going online to: [http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml)

2. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided.

3. PCR testing for *Legionella* is also available at SHL. Please refer to the clinical test menu for information and fill out a completed Viral and Bacteriology PCR and DFA Test Request Form.
Shipping Instructions

1. Include completed **Bacteriology Test Request Form** in outside pocket of biohazard bag.
2. Ship at 4°C using ice packs. DO NOT USE WET ICE. Shipping should take place so that receipt of the specimen at SHL is no longer than 24 hours from time of collection. If transport to the laboratory cannot be accomplished within 24 hours, call (319) 335-4335.
3. Send to SHL Coralville Lab (see address in footer)
4. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

Contact Information

1. For test request forms go online to [http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml) or call the SHL Coralville Lab at (319) 335-4500
2. For **Legionella** testing questions: (319) 335-4335