

Instructions for Collection of Specimens for *Lymphogranuloma venereum* Testing

Note: All specimens must be received with an MDCH Microbiology/Virology Test Requisition, a CDC submission form and an LGV Suspected Case-Patient Information form.

- I. Purpose: To provide guidance for collection and shipping of specimens from patients you suspect may have LGV.
- II. Symptoms of LGV:
 - Genital or rectal papule or ulcer
 - Tender, unilateral or bilateral inguinal and/or femoral adenopathy +/- local ulceration
 - Proctocolitis, hemorrhagic or non-hemorrhagic
 - Manifestations similar to inflammatory bowel disease
 - Tenesmus
- III. Specimen Collection Procedures (Clinicians)

You must submit both a rectal specimen and serum from patients you suspect may have LGV.

 - 1) Rectal specimen collection
 - a. Equipment

Obtain collection kits and mailers from MDCH. Use Unit 2 for amplified testing; Unit 44 for *Chlamydia* culture (optional); and Unit 8 for serum submission. **Upon receipt of Unit 44, place the refrigerant pack provided in a freezer until ready to ship specimens.**
 - b. Collection Technique
 - i. Blind rectal specimens should be collected prior to anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy. Insert dacron swab 3-5 cm into rectum, rotate against rectal wall several times. Discard swabs grossly contaminated with feces and repeat collection. If anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy is performed, collect specimen from visible mucosal ulceration. Specimens obtained during direct visualization when performing anoscopy or sigmoidoscopy are preferable.
 - ii. Remove the cap from the swab specimen transport tube and immediately place the swab into the transport tube. Carefully break the swab shaft at the score line and re-cap the swab specimen transport tube tightly. Alternatively, the swab and a liquid transport for another DNA amplification test kit (BD, Roche) can also be used.
 - iii. A *Chlamydia* culture is optional and requires collection of an additional swab. Rotate swab in transport vial (from Unit 44) with medium. **Express liquid by pressing swab against side of vial. Remove and discard swab.** Tighten cap securely on vial.
 - iv. Label the vial(s) with the same/unique identifier assigned on the requisitions.
 - v. Refrigerate – **Do not Freeze** – vial(s) until ready to ship by the most rapid means to the laboratory.
 - vi. When ready to ship, place vial(s), properly labeled with patient name/unique identifier, wrapped in absorbent material such as paper towel or tissue, into aluminum screw capped can.
 - 2) Serum collection
 - a. Collect approximately 5 mL of blood in red top vacutainer tube. After

sufficient clotting (one hour at room temperature), centrifuge the whole blood to separate cells from serum.

- b. Transfer serum to the plastic, skirted-cap, tube provided in Unit 8. Specimens less than 2.5 mL are unsatisfactory for testing.
- c. Label tube with the same name/unique identifier used on the rectal swab and test requisitions.
- d. Refrigerate serum at 2 – 8°C until ready to ship to MDCH. When ready to ship, wrap tubes in absorbent material such as paper towel or tissue and place it into the same aluminum screw-capped container as the rectal culture and tighten the cap.

3) Sex partner contacts

For asymptomatic sex partner contacts of a suspected or confirmed LGV case, urethral/urine testing for *C. trachomatis* should be conducted. If positive for *C. trachomatis*, specimens may be submitted to CDC for LGV testing. If a residual specimen is available, this residual may be submitted for genotype determination. The minimal volume of urine required for genotyping is 1 mL, but larger volumes are encouraged (up to 20 mL). Urine samples should be stored and transported at -20°C. Please also submit a serological specimen from these patients.

IV. Shipping Specimens

- 1) Wrap completed case-patient information form and MDCH and CDC test requisitions around the outside of aluminum screw-capped can.
- 2) Place aluminum can with completed requisition into screw-capped cardboard container and secure cap with tape.
- 3) Place cardboard container into Styrofoam container, along with refrigerant provided. Complete and apply orange, return shipping, diagnostic specimen label to corrugated shipping box and ship by the most rapid and convenient means available (e.g. courier, bus, U.S. Express mail etc.) to the Lansing Laboratory.

NOTE: The shipper is responsible for being sure that their package is in compliance with the current shipping regulations.