

Microbiology Specimen Storage

Latest guidelines (Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and American Society for Microbiology (ASM)) recommend the following optimal storage conditions for specimens.

Vaginal Culture Swabs	Room Temperature
• Throat	Fridge
• Wound/Skin	Fridge
• MRSA	Fridge
• Cervical	Fridge
• Ears	Fridge
• Eyes	Fridge
• Nose	Fridge
• Mouth/tongue	Fridge
• Chlamydia swabs	Fridge
• Anal/perineum/Rectal/ESBL	Fridge
• Urine Chlamydias	Fridge
• Urines	Fridge
• Stools	Fridge
• Sputum	Fridge
• Nasopharyngeal	Fridge
• Aspirates	Fridge

Please contact the laboratory (T: 06 872 6450) if you have any queries with storing specimens prior to courier collection.

Reference:

Baron EJ, Miller JM, Weinstein MP et al. A guide to Utilization of the Microbiology Laboratory for Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases: 2013 Recommendations by the Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA) and the American Society for Microbiology (ASM). *Clinical Infectious Diseases* 57:22-121, 2013