

Chlamydia Tests

The OSPHL performs antigen detection for *Chlamydia* on endocervical and male urine specimens. Routine testing is limited to clinics participating in the Region X *Chlamydia* Project.

Because *Chlamydia trachomatis* is an intracellular pathogen residing within the columnar epithelium, the accurate diagnosis of infection due to this agent requires cellular components for testing. The sensitivity of any testing procedure for chlamydial infection is directly proportional to the quantity of cellular constituents submitted for examination (i.e., the more cells submitted, the more likely the laboratory is able to detect infection).

Chlamydia trachomatis Antigen Detection is performed:

- daily, Monday through Friday
- turnaround time is 3 working days.

Acceptable Specimen Types

- Endocervical
- Urine

Endocervical Specimens

A. Specimen Collection

Please use the *Chlamydia* Specimen Collection Kit provided by the OSPHL (and refer to the directions included) to collect patient specimens for this test.

Please note that a cervical brush should not be used on pregnant

women - appropriate collection kits for these women are available from OSPHL by calling 503-693-4100 and asking for the stockroom. Cervical specimens should be collected prior to the application of acetic acid or iodine if colposcopic examination is being performed. Only the collection kits supplied by the OSPHL are valid for use with specimens submitted to them.

B. Endocervical specimen storage and transport

Specimens are stable for up to two weeks at room temperature and may be transported to the laboratory without refrigeration.

Urine Specimens

A. Specimen Collection

1. Patients should be instructed not to urinate for two hours prior to collection.
2. Use clean polypropylene containers that are free of preservatives.
3. Collect 10 to 50 ml of first catch urine (the first part of the stream).
4. Seal the specimen and label appropriately (make sure lids are screwed on tightly).
5. Package and send to the OSPHL.

B. Urine specimen storage and transport

<u>Temperature</u>	<u>Storage & transport</u>
18-25° C	Not more than 24 hrs
2-8° C	Not more than 7 days

Urine specimens that will not be shipped within 24 hours of collection MUST be stored at 2-8° C and be processed within 7 days of collection.

Transportation of specimens must comply with federal, state and local regulations for transportation of diagnostic specimens.

For questions regarding these instructions, call OSPHL Virology/Immunology at 503-693-4100.

Interpretation of Test Results

1. Negative - does not contain *Chlamydia trachomatis* DNA or contains it below the cutoff level.
2. Positive - positive for *C.trachomatis* DNA.
3. Equivocal - patient should be re-tested.
4. Unsatisfactory - specimen may contain inhibitors; patient should be re-tested.

Reporting

One copy of the report is sent to the submitter and another to Ahlers, which is responsible for collating all *Chlamydia* data gathered in the Region X study. A copy of all positive results not submitted by a county facility is sent to the local health department of the county of residence.

Deliver Specimens To:

Oregon State Public Health Laboratory
3150 NW 229th Avenue, Suite 100
Hillsboro, OR 97124-6536

Mail Specimens To:

Oregon State Public Health Laboratory
P.O. Box 275
Portland, OR 97207-0275