

Campylobacter Supplemental Information

Campylobacter are microaerophilic organisms that are identified by morphological and biochemical characteristics. They are small, curved or spiral gram-negative rods with a corkscrew-like motility. *Campylobacter* organisms may be isolated from fecal specimens or blood cultures. Antimicrobial susceptibilities are not performed on these isolates.

Both stool specimens for suspected *Campylobacter* infections and reference isolates for confirmation are tested at the South Dakota State Public Health Laboratory.

***Campylobacter* illness is a notifiable disease.**

Specimen Collection

For a suspected infection, use the enteric bacteria collection kit. One method for collecting a reference isolate for confirmation is to harvest the pure growth from a plate with a swab. Inoculate a Cary-Blair and leave the swab in the medium. Send the Cary-Blair refrigerated. Another method is to inoculate appropriate agar and send in campy pack with increased CO₂.

Specimen Identification

1. Complete **all** the provider and patient information areas on the SDPHL requisition slip. Include pertinent clinical and biochemical information with each specimen.
2. Label each specimen with the date of collection and the patient's first and last name. Unlabeled specimens or specimens where the patient identifier on the specimen does not match the identifier on the form **will not be tested**.

Shipment of Specimens

1. Wrap the specimen in absorbent material. Place it in a leak proof insulated container and pack with wet ice or freezer packs. Place the requisition form in a plastic bag to prevent wetting or contamination.
2. Affix the mailing label, return address, and infectious substance Category B specimen label to the outer container.
3. Courier the cultures to the South Dakota Public Health Laboratory in Pierre.
4. Use first-class postage if using the US Postal Service.

Specimens submitted on plates are acceptable only if they are properly closed in a *Campylobacter* transport bag and delivered by courier to the laboratory.

Reporting Procedures and Interpretation of Results

Most *Campylobacter* cultures are reported within 1 to 3 working days after receipt in the laboratory.

Organisms are identified to the genus and species level only when culture, morphology, and biochemical test results support the species identification. *Campylobacter* species designations are consistent with the American Society for Microbiology's *Manual of Clinical Microbiology* or according to the *International Code of Nomenclature of Bacteria*.

The results of all specimens are reported to the health care provider submitting the specimen and the Office of Disease Prevention in the SD State Health Department.

Criteria for Unacceptable Specimens

1. The specimen was not labeled.
2. The patient identifier on the specimen does not match that on the form.
3. The specimen was broken or leaked in transit.
4. The specimen was non-viable.
5. The specimen was submitted under improper atmospheric conditions.
6. A mixed specimen was submitted.
7. The specimen did not arrive in appropriate temperature transport range.