

**Body Fluid Culture – Specimen Collection Update****Effective Date: June 1, 2026**

Microbiology is updating specimen collection criteria for body fluid specimens. Microbiology will no longer accept red top vacutainer tubes as a collection device for body fluids (i.e., synovial fluid, pleural fluid, peritoneal fluid, etc). Collection criteria information has been updated in Corewell's Lab Test Directory to reflect this change. Test order for body fluid cultures is LAB2111016 (aerobic culture) and commonly accompanied by LAB233 (anaerobic culture).

## Acceptable collection devices

1. Sterile cups
2. Sterile conicals
3. Syringes with needle removed, capped.

## Rejection criteria:

1. Specimens received in non-sterile or leaking containers.
2. Specimens received beyond 24 hours from collection.
3. Specimens received in other non-approved specimen containers such as clot activator tubes, EDTA tubes, or E-Swabs.

Stability for body fluids in sterile containers is 24 hours.

Please note that we will continue to accept serum submitted for Cryptococcal antigen testing in red top serum vacutainer tubes.

**If you have questions, please contact your Corewell Health Laboratory Customer Service Department: Corewell Health Reference Lab East Customer Service: 800-551-0488 or 248-551-1155, Option 5**

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**Submitted Date: May 14, 2026****Submitted by: Lauren Hingst, Microbiology Manager,  
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