Specimen Collection for Leishmaniasis
(adopted from CDC, Diagnosis of Leishmaniasis, May 2014)

**Tests available:**
Culture
Microscopy
PCR

**Preferred Specimens:**
Tissue Biopsy
Needle Aspirate

Biopsy Sample Instructions:
1) Thoroughly cleanse the pertinent area of skin.
2) Using a sterile scalpel, obtain specimens at the edge (active area) of lesion.
3) Place tissue in labeled vial with buffered medium.
4) Place vial on ice and mail overnight to NYSDOH Parasitology Laboratory.

Needle Aspirate Sample Instructions:
1) For ulcerative skin lesions, insert the needle, through intact sterile skin, into the dermis of the active border. Use a 23- to 27-gauge needle; small-gauge needles are particularly useful for facial lesions.
2) Repeatedly move the needle back and forth under the skin, tangentially to the ulcer, simultaneously rotating the syringe and applying gentle suction, until pink-tinged tissue juice is noted in the hub of the needle. If necessary (if no aspirate is obtained), inject 0.05–0.1 mL saline under the skin and resume suction.
3) After the aspirate is obtained, withdraw the needle from the skin and discharge the aspirate into labeled vial with buffered medium.
4) Place vial on ice and mail overnight to NYSDOH Parasitology Laboratory.

Please note that all submitted samples must be accompanied by an IDR sheet and NPL form (if necessary).