

Specimen Collection Instructions for Cutaneous Leishmaniasis

(Adapted from CDC, Diagnosis of Leishmaniasis, May 2014)

Tests available:

Culture

Microscopy

PCR

Preferred Specimens:

Clinical specimens may be from needle aspirates, skin scrapings, or biopsies from skin lesions.

Biopsy Sample Instructions:

- 1.) Thoroughly cleanse the pertinent area of the skin.
- 2.) Using a sterile scalpel, obtain specimen at the leading edge (active area) of lesion.
- 3.) Place tissue sample in a labeled tube containing sterile buffered solution (e.g. phosphate buffered saline).
- 4.) Samples should be shipped refrigerated or on cold packs but not frozen. Mail samples overnight to NYSDOH Parasitology Laboratory.

Needle Aspirate Sample Instructions:

- 1.) For ulcerative lesions, insert the needle (through intact sterile skin) into the dermis at the edge of the lesion. 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. Apply gentle suction until pink-tinged tissue fluid is noted in the hub of the needle. 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 and dispense the aspirate into a labeled tube containing sterile buffered solution (e.g. phosphate buffered saline).
- 4.) Samples should be shipped refrigerated or on cold packs but not frozen. Mail samples overnight to NYSDOH Parasitology Laboratory.

Please note: All submitted samples must be accompanied by an Infectious Disease Requisition and Non-permitted Laboratory Test form.