

TRANSPORT GUIDELINES FOR FASTIDIOUS ORGANISMS

Organisms such as *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, and *Campylobacter jejuni* can be difficult to properly transport due to their fastidious nature. This document will hopefully provide some guidelines for laboratories to ensure that isolates reach the Office of Laboratory Services viable and healthy.

Campylobacter jejuni

These organisms are very fragile. Isolates can be grown on conventional blood agar. For optimal recovery, grow in a microaerobic atmosphere containing approximately 5% O₂, 10% CO₂, and 85% N₂.

ATMOSPHERE: microaerobic
TEMPERATURE: 35°C TO 42°C
PREFERRED MEDIA: blood agar slants

Haemophilus influenzae

Most *Haemophilus* organisms are readily lost as a result of drying out and most do not survive more than a few days in clinical specimens. When growing isolates, laboratorians must take into account the particular growth factors of this group; hemin (X factor) and NAD (v factor). Because of these special requirements, isolates must be grown on chocolate or Levinthal's medium.

ATMOSPHERE: CO₂, humid
TEMPERATURE: 35°C TO 37°C
PREFERRED MEDIA: chocolate agar slants

Neisseria meningitidis

Isolates of *Neisseria meningitidis* are stimulated by a CO₂ atmosphere. The optimal incubation temperature for most species is 35°C to 37°C.

ATMOSPHERE: CO₂
TEMPERATURE: 35°C TO 37°C
PREFERRED MEDIA: chocolate agar slants

Streptococcus pneumoniae

Unlike other species of *Streptococcus*, *S. pneumoniae* are very fragile. Every effort should be made to process the specimen as soon as possible. These organisms grow well on blood agar and prefer 35°C to 37°C with 5% CO₂.

ATMOSPHERE: CO₂
TEMPERATURE: 35°C TO 37°C
PREFERRED MEDIA: blood agar slants

NOTE: Please incubate slants in their optimal conditions overnight before sending to OLS to ensure that isolate is viable.