

**Test:** Culture testing for *Corynebacterium diphtheriae*

**Specimen receiving:** Specimens for *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* culture will be accepted from Monday thru Friday by 3:30 p.m. , except on holidays.

**Turn around Time:** 7 days

**Specimen requirements:** Collection sites of specimens include nasopharynx, throat, or wound swabs. Routine swab systems are adequate, even if extended delays in culture setup are anticipated, because the organism is not fastidious.

Note: the requesting laboratory must call the State Lab for notification of specimen submission, so that media and reagents can be prepared. The submitter can also request silica gel transport tubes from the State Lab. Sterile silica gel is recommended however, when specimens are not taken locally, and must be transported.

**Specimen transport:** Specimens should be transported at ambient temperature

**Requisition form:**

- All specimens must be submitted with a legible 81.3 request form
- Requisition form must have patient name or other unique identifier
- Name of test requested
- Date of collection
- Submitter name and address
- Inclusion of patient symptomology would be desirable.

**Normal value:** No *Corynebacterium diphtheriae* isolated.

**Result notification:** A positive presumptive result will be phoned to Submitter and disease Investigation Branch (DIB) will be notified by phone.  
A final laboratory report will be faxed to the submitter and to DIB.

**Comments:** Nasopharyngeal and throat cultures at the site of membrane or inflammation greatly increases recovery of the organism.  
If the organism is isolated, identification will be performed at the State Laboratory. The culture will also be forwarded to the CDC for confirmation and for toxin testing.

**Unacceptable submissions:**

- Contaminated or overgrown specimens
- Illegible or incomplete requisition forms
- Specimen without requisition form
- Requisition/specimen identifiers do not match
- No submitter or return address on form
- Refrigerated or frozen specimens

**Test location:**

State of Hawaii Dept. of Health Laboratories  
Medical Microbiology Branch  
Bacteriology-Parasitology Section  
2725 Waimano Home Road, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Floor  
Pearl City, HI 96782

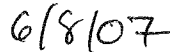
**Contact information:**

Phone: (808) 453-6706  
Fax: (808) 453-6716

**Approved:**



A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.



Date