



CONSOLIDATED LABORATORY SERVICES

St. Vincent's HealthCare

Environmental Cultures

Environmental cultures can be used to assess cleaning or disinfecting practices within an office. Unlike cultures performed on patients, environmental cultures provide your office with basic information regarding the type of bacteria isolated, and the approximate number of isolated colonies.

How to properly send an environmental culture:

- Using a standard aerobic culture swab, such as BBL CultureSwab, you can swab such surfaces as, whirlpools, ice machines and yoga mats.
- Proper labeling is essential . Since our computer system is designed for patients and requires a first and last name, we ask the same method be used in labeling environmental cultures.

Both the test requisition and specimen should be labeled as:

Environmental, [your client account name]

(Example: Environmental, Florida Spa)

It is imperative that both the specimen and the test requisition have the exact same "name" as shown above. Discrepant specimens will be rejected.

- **A separate test requisition must be submitted for each "source".**
- **Write the name of the source in the comments-additional tests section on the requisition. Source examples might be; whirlpool1, yoga mat2 or ice machine3.**
- **Upon test completion, results will be sent back to your office. Please note that specific bacterial identification and sensitivities are not performed on environmental cultures. A typical completed result might read "4 colonies of gram negative bacilli" or "20 colonies of staph". No additional testing will be performed.**

Please contact your Sales/Service Representative if you have additional questions.