

Cerebrospinal Fluid – CSF

CSF samples should be delivered to the lab promptly following collection and handed directly to laboratory staff as testing must be done immediately. Samples must not be sent internally to the testing lab via the pneumatic tube system. The requesting physician must indicate priority of testing if there is insufficient sample volume to complete all tests requested.

Include any additional requisitions as required for specialized testing. Complete patient history on any BCCDC requisitions.

CSF Collection Container Assignment:

- Separate tubes are necessary for individual tests as shown below.
- Each tube must be separately labelled with required patient information.
- Indicate collection tube number on sample label.

Test	Container	Sample Volume
Cell Count (WBC, RBC) and diff	Tube # 1 and 4* Note: Cell count is always performed on Tube #4. In the case of bloody sample, cell count will also be done on Tube #1.	Minimum 0.5mL, 1 mL preferred
Microbiology: Culture (includes aerobic and anaerobic cultures, and Gram stain)	Tube # 2	Minimum 0.5 mL
Other tests: Mycobacteriology (TB) Culture BCCDC TB Requisition required Mycology (Fungal) Culture BCCDC Fungus Requisition required Viral culture Prion (CJD/14-3-3) BCCDC Virology Requisition required Testing for Prion (CJD/ 14-3-3)* *Must contact Neurologist/ Microbiologist prior to collection		Minimum 2 mL
Chemistry and Serology	Tube # 3	Minimum 2 mL
Cytology	Refer to Cytology for specific sample requirements	