

## **Instructions for the Collection of Skin, Hair, and Nail Specimens for Culturing of Dermatophytes and other Fungus**

**Please read carefully or your specimen may be rejected by the lab**

### **The container:**

- Use the Mycology collection kit obtained from Central Stores at CDHA.

### **How to collect sample:**

1. Clean the affected area with 70% alcohol and allow to air dry to reduce contamination.
2. Collect the specimen:
  - a. **SKIN:** Scrape the edge of the active “ringworm” rash using a scalpel blade and collect the skin flakes on the heavy paper provided in the kit. Collect as many pieces as possible.
  - b. **NAILS:** Using a scalpel blade, scrape away and discard the superficial (often contaminated) portion and collect the deeper material on the heavy black paper provided in the kit.
  - c. **HAIR:** Using forceps, pluck broken or lustreless hair from the affected area and deposit on the heavy black paper provided in the kit. Include a skin scraping from the area as well.
3. Refold the paper so that the specimen is contained and cannot fall out.
4. Place the black paper in the envelope provided and label as per instructions below.
5. Fill out a Microbiology requisition (pink) to accompany the specimen using the information below. Also make note on the requisition the specimen type and source.
6. Transport the specimen at room temperature.

**Please note the following: If you have trouble collecting the specimen, please contact your healthcare provider.**

#### **Make sure the information on the envelope includes:**

- Your legal name
- Your Health Card Number or another unique identifier (as determined by your healthcare provider)
- Date and time of collection

#### **Make sure the requisition form includes:**

- Your legal name
- Your date of birth
- Your Health Card Number or another unique identifier (as determined by your healthcare provider)
- Physicians full name and address
- Date and time of collection

#### **Deliver the specimen within 24 hours to:**

QEII Health sciences Centre  
Central Specimen Accessioning  
Main Floor, Mackenzie Building  
5788 University Avenue,  
Halifax, N.S.  
(24 hour access for drop-offs)

**or:** Your local district laboratory

If delay in transport is expected, keep specimen at room temperature. Do not re-refrigerate.