

# Specimen Collection for Leishmaniasis

(adopted from CDC, Diagnosis of Leishmaniasis, May 2014)

## **Tests available:**

Culture

Microscopy

PCR

## **Preferred Specimens:**

Tissue Biopsy

Needle Aspirate

### Biopsy Sample Instructions:

- 1) Thoroughly cleanse the pertinent area of skin.
- 2) Using a sterile scalpel, obtain specimens at the edge (active area) of lesion.
- 3) Place tissue in labeled vial with buffered medium.
- 4) Place vial on ice and mail overnight to NYSDOH Parasitology Laboratory.

### Needle Aspirate Sample Instructions:

- 1) For ulcerative skin lesions, insert the needle, through intact sterile skin, into the dermis of the active border. Use a 23- to 27-gauge needle; small-gauge needles are particularly useful for facial lesions.
- 2) Repeatedly move the needle back and forth under the skin, tangentially to the ulcer, simultaneously rotating the syringe and applying gentle suction, until pink-tinged tissue juice is noted in the hub of the needle. If necessary (if no aspirate is obtained), inject 0.05–0.1 mL saline under the skin and resume suction.
- 3) After the aspirate is obtained, withdraw the needle from the skin and discharge the aspirate into labeled vial with buffered medium.
- 4) Place vial on ice and mail overnight to NYSDOH Parasitology Laboratory.

Please note that all submitted samples must be accompanied by an IDR sheet and NPL form (if necessary).