
SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDELINES

Arbovirus Serology

SUBMISSION FORM

Each specimen must contain a separate submission form. Fill out the form as completely and legibly as possible. Testing will not be initiated without the inclusion of a unique patient identifier (such as name or medical record number) on both the form and the specimen tube. The source of specimen and date of collection are also required.

SHIPPING

Serum and CSF specimens must be packaged and shipped according to current IATA and DOT regulations.

SPECIMEN TYPES AND AMOUNTS

Acute and convalescent specimens should be sent together whenever available. If one of these specimens are unavailable, we will accept single specimens for testing. Ideal timing of specimens is as follows: acute specimens should be taken within eight (8) days after symptom onset; convalescent specimens should be taken at least two (2) weeks after the acute sample. If the acute sample is taken too early, antibodies may not have had time to develop and a false negative test may result.

Testing is performed on both serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) specimens. Please send at least 0.5mL of serum and at least 1mL of CSF in order to have sufficient quantity for testing to proceed. Do not send whole blood. Transfer serum specimens to a cryogenic vial or other similar small container before shipping.

RESULT REPORTING

Testing is performed using IgM Capture ELISA. In most cases, results will be available within seven (7) days of receipt. During Arbovirus season, turn-around-times may be longer. Final reports are mailed to the submitter and the Division of Infectious Disease Epidemiology. Positive test results are also sent to the county of origin of the patient.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Address for Shipping: WV Office of Laboratory Services
167 11th Avenue
South Charleston, WV 25303

Phone: (304) 558-3530
Fax: (304) 558-6210
Web: www.dhhr.wv.gov/ols