

Specimen Submission Requirements for the Syphilis Examination of Blood

- Methodology:** RPR (Qualitative only), VDRL (Qualitative and Quantitative), Trep-Sure EIA
- Performed:** The Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division will accept whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or serum specimens from Monday through Friday by 3:30 p.m. from DOH Programs
- For non-DOH clinicians and laboratories, MMB will **ONLY** accept specimens that have been screened and tested positive. Submission of negative or unscreened specimens requires MMB approval.
- Turn-Around-Time:** 6 days
- Specimen Collection:** One 6 –7 mL tube of whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or a minimum of 1 mL of serum.
Uncentrifuged whole blood specimens must reach the laboratory in time for processing, with serum separation occurring within 48 hours of collection.
- Specimen Transport:** Specimens are to be delivered to the Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division at a transport temperature of 2 – 8° C. Whole blood specimens should be stored at 2 – 8° C and transported to the State Laboratory at the recommended transport temperature within 48 hours of the collection date.
Serum specimens should be stored at 2 – 8 °C and transported to the State Laboratory at the recommended transport temperature within 5 days of the collection date.
Serum specimens may be frozen at -20° C and submitted to the laboratory on dry ice.
- Requisition Form:** **Syphilis Examination of Blood**
- This State requisition is a triplicate form. Please **do not** tear and remove any part of the form. At a minimum, 2 patient identifiers, name and address of submitter, date of collection, and purpose for which specimen was taken (prenatal, diagnostic, control of treatment, reference or confirmation) must be completed on the form.
- Normal Value:** RPR (Qualitative): Non-reactive
VDRL (Qualitative and Quantitative): Non-reactive
Trep-Sure EIA: Non-reactive
- Result Notification:** Laboratory reports will be forwarded to both the submitter and the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic.

Remarks:

Please be sure that completed requisition forms are legible. Requisition forms and specimen tubes are not to be placed in the same chamber of the specimen transport container or bag.

All specimens received for the syphilis examination of blood will be tested with the RPR (qualitative) test. Specimens that are found to be “reactive” on the RPR will be further tested with the VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) and Trep-Sure EIA test. If “control of treatment” is indicated on the form, only the RPR (qualitative) and VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) will be performed.

Unacceptable Conditions:

- a. Illegible or incomplete requisition forms.
- b. Unlabeled tubes.
- c. Chylous specimens (unable to read newsprint through specimen tube).
- d. Hemolyzed specimens (unable to read newsprint through specimen tube).
- e. Leaking blood or serum specimens.
- f. Specimen quantity not sufficient (<1 mL of serum) to perform test.
- g. Whole blood in collection tube containing an anticoagulant.
- h. Grossly contaminated with microorganisms.
- i. Specimens warmer than the required transport temperature.
- j. Specimens other than whole blood (without anticoagulant) or serum.
- k. Negative or unscreened specimens from non-DOH submitters.

Test Location:

State Laboratories Division
Medical Microbiology Branch
Bacterial Serology Unit
2725 Waimano Home Rd., 2nd floor
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782
Phone: (808) 453-6706

Approved:



A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.
State Laboratories Division Administrator



Date