



## Serology Specimen Submission Guidelines

### Collection

**Whole blood should NOT be sent for samples requiring serological testing.**

Serological tests require 1-2 mL of **serum only**. This can be obtained in two ways:

- 1) Collect blood in a sterile red top tube. Allow the sample to clot at room temperature for at least one-half hour, rim the tube to release the clot, then spin down in a centrifuge and transfer the separated serum to a sterile tube. If a centrifuge is not available, the clot should be removed and the remaining serum submitted; or
- 2) Collect blood utilizing a sterile serum separator tube (SST/tiger top). The serum separator tube should be centrifuged before shipping.

All serum samples should be kept at ambient conditions for short periods or cooled/refrigerated for extended periods to maintain diagnostic quality. Serum samples may also be frozen for extended periods and submitted for testing. Do **NOT** expose serum samples to heat for any period of time. Call the laboratory for any additional questions about a sample's integrity for testing.

### Shipping

1. Ship specimens in appropriate leak-proof containers.
2. Screw-cap closures must be reinforced with tape and/or double enclosed.
3. Label each specimen container with appropriate identification information including owner's last name, animal name/number and type of specimen.
4. Double bag specimens shipped in whirl-pak bags.
5. Add absorbent material to prevent leakage should breakage occur.
6. All serum samples should be kept refrigerated or frozen then shipped with ice packs to maintain diagnostic quality.
7. Include a signed, dated [ADDL Sample Submission Form](#).
8. The use of an overnight courier helps ensure sample quality and reliability of delivery to the laboratory.

#### Ship to:

Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab  
Division of Animal Health  
Ohio Department of Agriculture, Building #6  
8995 E Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

*If you have questions about submitting a sample, please contact the ADDL:*  
Phone: 614-728-6220  
Email: [animal@agri.ohio.gov](mailto:animal@agri.ohio.gov)