State Hygienic Laboratory
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
QuantiFERON TB Gold Samples
Specimen Collection and Shipping Instructions

Submission Requirements

1. **Call SHL to arrange for testing and transport at least 24 hours prior to collection.**
   - SHL Coralville Lab at (319) 335-4500 or SHL Ankeny Lab at (515) 725-1600
   - Courier option: CDS (Central Delivery System) at (515) 771-8541 (fees apply)

2. **All non-incubated specimens must arrive at SHL within 16 hours of specimen collection and during SHL business hours: 8-5, M-F.**

3. **All incubated specimens must arrive at SHL within 3 days of incubation.**

4. Label each of the 3 tubes with patient name or unique identifier, age or date of birth (DOB), and date and time of collection. UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.

5. A completed [Serology/Immunology Test Request Form](http://us-tb.gnowee.net/videos/3) must accompany the specimen.

Specimen Collection and Handling

1. Specimen collection videos for QuantiFERON TB Gold collection are available online at [http://us-tb.gnowee.net/videos/3](http://us-tb.gnowee.net/videos/3)

2. Collect tubes in order (Nil, Antigen, Mitogen). Tubes are calibrated to accept 1ml of whole blood. Recommend a purge tube with use of butterfly needle.
   - **Not Incubated:**
     a. Immediately after filling shake tubes 10 times firmly.
     b. Specimen must arrive at SHL within 16 hours of collection.
     c. Ship at room temperature (20 to 30°C). **Do not refrigerate or freeze.**
   - **Incubated at collection site:**
     a. Immediately after filling shake tubes 10 times firmly.
     b. Blood must be incubated within 16 hours of collection.
     c. Incubate tubes upright at 37°C +/- 1°C, for 16 to 24 hours.
     d. If tubes are not incubated immediately after collection, re-shake 10 times prior to incubation at 37°C
     e. Ship incubated tubes to SHL within 3 days of incubation at room temperature (20 to 30°C)

Test Request Form

1. Complete [Serology/Immunology Test Request Form](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml), including all patient identifiers, by going online to: [http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml](http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/testmenu/formgenerator.xml).

2. Testing is dependent upon complete and accurate information; therefore, results may be delayed if information is not provided.
   a. Name, birth date, and gender of patient
   b. Specimen type and date and time of specimen collection
   c. If incubated at collection site, include **Start Date, Time, and Temperature and Stop Date, Time, and Temperature** on the Test Request Form
Shipping Instructions

1. Include completed Serology/Immunology Test Request Form in outside pocket of biohazard bag.
2. Wrap the specimen in absorbent material and place into a biohazard bag (one specimen per biohazard bag).
3. Roll up the bag and place in a mailer.
4. Seal mailer with the S-coded self-adhesive wrapper provided with the SHL kit or equivalent.
5. Ship at ambient temperature. DO NOT REFRIGERATE OR FREEZE.
6. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.

Contact Information

1. For test collection kits, go online to http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms or call the SHL Coralville Lab at (319) 335-4500 or the SHL Ankeny Lab at (515) 725-1600
2. For QuantiFERON TB Gold testing questions: (319) 335-4275