Specimen Collection and Shipping Instructions

Submission Requirements

1. Serum is accepted for all tests performed. Cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) or serum may be submitted for West Nile Virus, syphilis, and Cryptococcus neoformans testing.
2. A convalescent blood sample collected 14-21 days after acute specimen is required for complement fixation testing and is recommended for most serologic studies.
3. Label tube with patient's name or unique identifier, age or date of birth (DOB) and the date of collection. UNLABELED SPECIMENS WILL NOT BE TESTED.
4. A completed Serology/Immunology Test Request Form must accompany the specimen.

Specimen Collection and Handling

1. Collect blood samples in a red stopper, serum separator tube (SST), or a tube without anticoagulants. When possible, samples should be centrifuged to separate serum from cells.
2. 1ml of serum is the minimum recommended volume to submit.
3. Collect CSF samples in a clear, plastic tube with a screw-top lid.
4. Refrigerate.

Test Request Form

1. Complete Serology/Immunology Test Request Form, including all patient identifiers, by going online to: 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. Specimen type and date and time of specimen collection
   b. Desired test(s) (check all that apply)

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 with cold pack if mailed.
6. Ship multiple specimens in packaging compliant with USPS or IATA regulations.
7. If delays in transport are anticipated, refrigerate specimens until shipment.

Contact Information

1. For test collection kits, go online to http://www.shl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms, or call (319) 335-4466
2. For Serology/Immunology testing questions: (319) 335-4275

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