

Quick Reference Guide for Sample Type and Shipping Conditions

Test	Sample Type	Transport Temperature	Holding Time	Shipping Category	Comments
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	Pure culture, blood, BAL, CSF, pleural fluid, serum, sputum, swab, whole blood-EDTA	Varies	Test as soon as possible	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping. 605-773-3368
Bacteriology culture (Aerobic)	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Bacteriology culture (Anaerobic)	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	Ship in anaerobic environment
Blood Lead	EDTA whole blood; capillary or venous	2-8°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Bordetella</i> PCR	Dry transport sterile NP Flocked Swab, Nasopharyngeal swab in VTM or Nasopharyngeal aspirate	2-8°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Brucella</i> culture	Pure culture on chocolate agar slant, bone marrow, CSF, serum, synovial fluid, tissue, whole blood-EDTA	Varies	Test as soon as possible	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping. 605-773-3368
<i>Burkholderia species</i>	Pure culture, serum, whole blood-EDTA	Varies	Test as soon as possible	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping. 605-773-3368
<i>Campylobacter</i> culture	Pure culture or stool in Cary-Blair	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	Ship in microaerophilic environment
Carbapenemase PCR (Carba-R)	Pure culture or rectal swab	2-28°C	Test within 5 days of collection	Category B	
Carbapenem-Resistant <i>Enterobacterales</i> and <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> Screen (mCIM)	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Chlamydia</i> and <i>Gonorrhoeae</i> molecular	Urine, cervix, vaginal, liquid Pap solution, throat, rectal, or male urethral swabs	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for urine samples within 30 days and swabs within 60 days, or frozen at ≤-20°C for up to 60 days for urines and 90 days for swabs	Category B	Urine: submit in Hologic Aptima 2 urine collection kit; Cervix, vaginal, liquid Pap solution, throat, rectal, or male urethral swabs: submit in Hologic Aptima2 collection kit
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheria</i>	Throat, lesion, or membrane swab; pure culture	2-8°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Coxiella burnetii</i>	Acute and convalescent serum	Varies	2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen (≤-20°C) No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
<i>Escherichia coli</i> O157:H7	Pure culture of sorbitol-negative <i>E. coli</i> colonies	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Francisella tularensis</i> culture	Pure culture on chocolate agar slant, tissue, whole blood-EDTA	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping. 605-773-3368
<i>Francisella tularensis</i> serology	Acute and convalescent serum	<-15°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Fungal culture	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Gastrointestinal Panel FilmArray	Stool in Cary-Blair	2-25°C	Test within 4 days	Category B	
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> Type B Serotyping	Pure culture from sterile site only	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Hantavirus Serology	Acute serum; convalescent upon request	2-8°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Hepatitis A Antibody IgG	Serum	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis A Antibody IgM	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis Acute Panel (HAV IgM, HBc IgM, HBsAg, HCV)	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 6 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis B Acute Panel (HBsAb, HBsAg, HBcIgM)	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 6 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis B Chronic Panel (HBcAb, HBsAb, HBsAg)	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 6 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis B Core Antibody IgM	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	

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Hepatitis B Core Total Antibody	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis B Surface Antibody	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis B Surface Antigen	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 6 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis C Virus	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Hepatitis C Virus Quantitative RNA	Serum or plasma	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 5 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	Serum / plasma MUST be separated from cells within 6 hrs. of collection
Herpes Simplex Virus Serology	Acute and convalescent serum or CSF	Varies	Ship 2-8°C in less than 72 hours of collection; or frozen at ≤-20°C.	Category B	
HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)	Serum or plasma (EDTA and heparin)	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 7 days or frozen at ≤-20°C; No more than 3 freeze/thaw cycles	Category B	
Influenza A/B PCR	Throat swab, nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, nasal swab or wash, Specimens in VTM preferred	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 72 hrs. or frozen (<-70°C)	Category B	
Interferon Gamma Release Assay (QFT)	Whole blood collected in manufacturer QFT tubes	Varies	Not incubated: 17-27°C Incubated but not centrifuged: 4-27°C Incubated and centrifuged: 2-8°C	Category B	Document "Not incubated" on the submission form if this applies.
Lyme IgG Antibody	Serum	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 6 days or frozen at ≤-20°C. No more than 2 freeze/thaw cycles.	Category B	
Lyme IgM Antibody	Serum	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 6 days or frozen at ≤-20°C. No more than 2 freeze/thaw cycles.	Category B	
Measles (Rubeola) PCR	Throat, NP, or nasal swab in VTM	2-8°C	Test within 72 hours of collection	Category B	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Measles (Rubeola) Serology (IgG)	Serum	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 5 days or frozen at ≤-20°C. Avoid successive freezing and thawing.	Category B	
MERS	NP swab, sputum, lower respiratory tract aspirate/washes	2-8°C	Test as soon as possible	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Miscellaneous Bacterial Culture	Pure culture	2-25°C	Ship as soon as possible	Category B	
Mpox	Dry lesion swab	2-8°C	Test within 7 days	Category B	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Mumps PCR	Buccal swab in VTM	2-8°C	Test within 72 hours of collection	Category B	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Mumps Serology (IgG)	Serum	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for up to 5 days or frozen at ≤-20°C. Avoid successive freezing and thawing.	Category B	
<i>Mycobacterium</i> Culture	Sputum, urine, gastric lavage, pleural fluid, blood in SPS, other body fluid, bone marrow and tissue	2-8°C	Test within 7 days	Category B	Gastric lavage: add 100 mg of sodium carbonate to neutralize the acid.
<i>Mycobacterium</i> Reference Culture	Pure culture, NP broth, MGIT broth	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Mycobacterium</i> Smear (AFB)	Sputum, urine, gastric wash, pleural fluid, blood, other body fluid, bone marrow, and tissue	2-8°C	Test within 7 days	Category B	Gastric lavage: add 100 mg of sodium carbonate to neutralize the acid.
<i>Mycobacterium Tuberculosis</i> PCR (MTB/RIF)	Sputum	2-8°C	Test within 10 days	Category B	
Mycology culture	Pure culture	2-8°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoea</i> Culture	Pure culture; urogenital, throat, rectal, or conjunctival swab	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	Ship on Thayer Martin or chocolate agar with increased CO ₂
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoea</i> Molecular	Urine, cervix, vaginal, liquid Pap solution, throat, rectal, or male urethral swabs	Varies	Ship 2-8°C for urine samples within 30 days and swabs within 60 days, or frozen at ≤-20°C for up to 60 days for urines and 90 days for swabs	Category B	Urine: submit in Hologic Aptima 2 urine collection kit; Cervix, vaginal, liquid Pap solution, throat, rectal, or male urethral swabs: submit in Hologic Aptima2 collection kit

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<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> serotyping	Pure culture from sterile site for serotyping	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Quantiferon TB Gold Plus (QFT)	Whole blood collected in manufacturer QFT tubes	Varies	<u>Not incubated:</u> 17-27°C <u>Incubated but not centrifuged:</u> 4-27°C and must be centrifuged within 3 days of incubation; <u>Incubated and centrifuged:</u> 2-8°C for up to 28 days	Category B	Document "Not incubated" on the submission form if applicable.
Orthopoxvirus PCR	Biopsy, crust of lesion, vesicle/pustular swab or fluid	Varies	2-8°C tested as soon as possible. 2-8°C for swabs within 24 hours of collection on dry ice -20°C to -70°C	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Rabies Serology	Serum	2-8°C	Test within 7 days	Category B	
Respiratory Panel Filmarray	Nasopharyngeal swab in VTM	Varies	2-8°C for up to 3 days or ≤-20°C for up to 30 days	Category B	
Rickettsia Serology Panel (Rocky Mtn Spotted Fever, Typhus, and C. burnetii)	Acute and convalescent serum	2-8°C	Test within 7 days	Category B	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever	Acute and convalescent serum	2-8°C	Test within 7 days	Category B	Notify SDPHL before shipping (605-773-3368)
RPR (Rapid Plasma Reagin)	Serum	Varies	2-8°C for up to 5 days or ≤-20°C ; No more than 1 freeze/thaw cycle	Category B	
Rubella Serology (IgG)	Serum	Varies	2-8°C for up to 7 days or ≤-20°C for up to 2 months. Avoid successive freezing and thawing.	Category B	
<i>Salmonella</i> Confirmation	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Salmonella</i> Culture	Stool in Cary-Blair or other enteric preservative	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
SARS CoV2 PCR	Throat swab, nasopharyngeal swab or aspirate, nasal swab or wash, Specimens in VTM preferred	Varies	2-8°C for up to 72 hours or frozen (<-70°C)	Category B	
Shigatoxin-producing <i>E. coli</i> (STEC)	Stool in Cary-Blair or MacConkey Broth	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Shigella</i> Confirmation	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Shigella</i> Culture	Stool in Cary-Blair or other enteric preservative	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Stool Culture (Salmonella, Shigella, Campylobacter and E.coli O157:H7)	Stool in Cary-Blair	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
Syphilis- See RPR or TPPA	Serum	Varies	2-8°C for up to 5 days or ≤-20°C ; more than 1 freeze/thaw cycle	Category B	No
TPPA (<i>Treponema pallidum</i> Particle Agglutination)	Serum	Varies	2-8°C for up to 5 days or frozen at ≤-20°C ; more than 1 freeze/thaw cycle	Category B	No
Varicella Zoster Serology (IgG)	Serum	Varies	2-8°C for up to 5 days or freeze ≤-20°C . Avoid successive freezing and thawing.	Category B	Avoid
Variola Virus (Smallpox)	Lesion material	Varies	2-8°C within 24 hrs. of collection; or on dry ice -20°C to -70°C.	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping. 605-773-3368
<i>Vibrio</i> Confirmation	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Vibrio</i> Culture	Stool in Cary-Blair or other enteric preservative	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
West Nile Virus Serology (IgM)	Acute serum or CSF	Varies	2-8°C for up to 7 days or ≤-20°C for up to 30 days. Avoid repeated freezing and thawing of samples.	Category B	
<i>Yersinia</i> Confirmation	Pure culture	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Yersinia</i> Culture	Stool in Cary-Blair or other enteric preservative	2-25°C	Test as soon as possible	Category B	
<i>Yersinia pestis</i>	Pure culture, bronchial washing, NP swab, sputum, tissue, tracheal aspirate, whole blood-EDTA	Varies	Test as soon as possible	Suspect Category A	Notify SDPHL before shipping. 605-773-3368