



## Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

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Relay Missouri: Dial 711 to access services for those with hearing or speech impairments



**Sarah Willson**  
Director

**Mike Kehoe**  
Governor

### MISSOURI STATE PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY HEPATITIS B AND C COLLECTION AND SUBMISSION OF SPECIMENS

Upon receipt of the virus shipping containers, place the refrigerant pack in the freezer and keep frozen until specimens are packaged.

#### **SPECIMEN – Must be centrifuged within 6 hours of collection**

##### **2.5ml minimum volume**

- Serum (Preferred sample) – Serum separator tube. If using a red top tube, transfer serum into secondary container.  
Or
- Plasma – ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) – Transfer plasma into secondary container.

Virology Test Request Form is available online at <http://health.mo.gov/lab/>

#### **SPECIMENS NOT LABELED WITH THE PATIENT'S NAME WILL BE DISCARDED WITHOUT TESTING.**

#### **STORAGE OF SPECIMENS**

- Immediately store the specimen at refrigerator temperature (2-8 °C) pending shipment.
- Specimens can be stored at -20 °C
- Specimens must be kept cool on a frozen refrigerant pack and sent to the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory as soon as possible.
  - Shipment timing and temperature requirements vary for each **Hepatitis B** marker. Details can be found at <http://health.mo.gov/lab/hepb.php>
  - Shipment timing and temperature requirements vary for **Hepatitis C** antibody and RNA test. Details can be found at <http://health.mo.gov/lab/hepc.php>

#### **PACKING FOR SHIPMENT OF SPECIMENS**

- Place refrigerant pack in Styrofoam box. Refrigerant pack must be frozen when box is packed for shipment to maintain specimens at proper temperature.
- Place specimen in safety container provided in Styrofoam container with refrigerant pillows.
- Place Styrofoam box with Test Request Form inside cardboard box and tape cardboard box shut.

#### **DO NOT USE ICE MADE WITH WATER WHEN SHIPPING SPECIMENS**

#### **SHIPMENT OF SPECIMENS**

Determine method of shipment (mail or courier) that will get specimens to the laboratory in the shortest length of time. If possible, select the method of shipment so that the specimens will not arrive in Jefferson City on Saturday, Sunday or a holiday. **DO NOT SHIP CLINICAL SPECIMENS BY UPS.**

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### **PROMOTING HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Our vision is optimal health and safety for all Missourians, in all communities, for life.