

Specimen Shipping Instructions for *Legionella* Testing During Outbreak Investigations

NOTE: All testing requires prior consultation during core hours (8 am to 3 pm EST) at 404-639-4921.

Specimen Type	Tests Available	Minimum Requirements	Preparation	Short-term Storage	Long-term Storage	Shipping (next day, Monday – Thursday)
Isolate	Serogroup determination (<i>L. pneumophila</i> sg 1-17), Monoclonal antibody (MAb) typing (Lp1), Sequence-based typing (Lp)*; <i>Legionella</i> species determination based on <i>mip</i> sequencing	Identification as genus <i>Legionella</i>	Growth on BCYE-based media visible to the naked eye	≤ 14 days refrigerated (4°C)	Freeze ≤ 20°C or Pass and re-incubate on fresh media [§]	Ship on slants or plates at 4° C (regular cold packs)
Urine	Urine antigen EIA	500 µl	None	≤ 48 hours refrigerated (4°C)	Freeze ≤ 20°C	Ship frozen ≤ 20°C (super cold packs)†
Respiratory Specimens (sputum, BAL, tracheal aspirate, tissue, etc.)[†]	Culture, PCR, DFA	500 µl	None	Freeze immediately ≤ 20°C	Freeze ≤ 20°C	Ship frozen ≤ 20°C (super cold packs)
Serum^Ω	IFA	500 µl, each acute and convalescent	Collect in red top tubes, centrifuge to clear red blood cells	Freeze immediately ≤ 20°C	Freeze ≤ 20°C	Ship frozen ≤ 20°C (super cold packs)

* This is not a CLIA approved test. Results are for research purposes only and should not be used to determine clinical treatments.

[§]To be discussed during the consultation.

[†] For pathology specimens, please see specific instructions: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dhcpp/idpb/specimen-submission/index.html#general>.

[†] Cold packs rated for freezing at -70°C or lower. Not all cold packs are stable at temperatures below -20°C

^Ω Serum is acceptable only if acute and convalescent specimens are sent together. Acute specimens should be collected during the first week of illness and convalescent specimens should be collected 3-6 weeks later. Grossly hemolyzed or contaminated sera cannot be tested. Use plastic tubes.

- Specimens should be shipped to CDC by state health departments only. Physicians and hospitals, please contact your state health department.
- A separate CDC Form 50.34 (“DASH form”) must accompany each specimen submitted. It should be completed electronically and printed. This form changes every six months and the most recent version can always be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html>.
- Specimens should be shipped Monday – Thursday overnight to arrive the next day. Do not ship on a Friday. Label as Category B, biological (labels provided upon request).

Shipping Address:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
ATTN: Ellen Brown
1600 Clifton Rd. NE MS-G03
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027
PH: (404) 639-2207