Complete the CDC specimen submission form 50-34 and send along with any specimens you are submitting. If you are requesting more than 1 test or submitting more than 1 specimen, you are supposed to submit 1 form for every test and specimen.

Blood smears:
Send stained or unstained pretreatment slides (if unstained, fix thin smears in methanol as soon as possible after making the smear). Place slides in protective shipping holders to prevent breakage. If you wish the slides to be returned, please indicate that on the form.

Blood for PCR or culture:
Draw pretreatment whole blood in 3- or 5-ml EDTA or ACD blood tubes.

Serum for serology:
Draw 3 to 5 ml blood in a clot or serum separator tube. Centrifuge and transfer serum into a shipping vial.

Shipping:
1. Label all slides, blood tubes, and serum vials with the patient’s name and collection date.
2. Blood tubes and serum vials must be packed in a primary shipping container with enough absorbent material to contain any leakage.
3. The primary holder of all types of specimens must be placed in a secondary protective container for shipping.
4. For whole blood specimens < 72 hours old, ship on cold packs as a “Clinical Specimen” by overnight carrier.
5. For all other specimens, ship at room temperature as a “Clinical Specimen” by overnight carrier.
6. All specimens should be shipped to:

   CDC
   ATTN: DASH/Unit 52
   1600 Clifton Road
   Atlanta, GA 30333