

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria

Instructions for Malaria Specimen Submission

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.

If you are requesting assistance with malaria diagnosis or Plasmodium species identification, please choose:

- Parasite - Morphologic Identification (O+P) CDC-10234 or
- Malaria - Molecular Identification CDC-10480.

For malaria serology please choose

- Malaria - IFA CDC-10464.

If you are submitting specimens for malaria drug resistance surveillance only please choose:

- Parasite - Malaria Surveillance CDC-10235

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.

Please arrange Monday-Friday delivery only. Packages cannot be accepted on weekends or on federal holidays.

If you have any questions please contact DPDx at dpx@cdc.gov or call 770-718-4110.

Health care providers needing assistance with diagnosis or management of suspected cases of malaria should call the CDC Malaria Hotline: 770-488-7788 or 855-856-4713 toll-free (M-F, 9am-5pm, eastern time). Emergency consultation after hours, call: 770-488-7100 and request to speak with a CDC Malaria Branch clinician.

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