

Specimen Submission Guidelines

Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch

Reference Diagnostic Laboratory

General Guidelines for Test Requests and Shipping Specimens

1. Samples should be sent through your state public health laboratory or with their approval. Final reports of test results are returned to the state public health laboratory who is responsible for providing these reports to the primary submitter.
2. Specimens must be accompanied by the CDC Specimen Submission Form (CDC 50.34) <http://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html>. Separate forms should be submitted for each test requested (i.e., serology, PCR, immunohistochemistry, culture) for an individual patient. Specimen submission forms **MUST** include:
 - Patient name, sex, and birthdate
 - Date of illness onset
 - Date of specimen collection
 - Specimen type (e.g., serum, whole blood, tissue, etc.)
 - Shipping medium, if applicable (e.g., saline, formalin, etc.)
 - Test requested (see test codes below)
 - Brief clinical summary (including details of antibiotic therapy and dates) and pertinent clinical findings
 - Brief travel and exposure history (including animals, arthropods, etc.)
 - Submitting physician/organization, complete return address, and contact numbers
 - Samples for immunohistochemistry should include a copy of any existing pathology report(s)
3. Samples should be sent directly to the Specimen Triage and Tracking (STAT) lab at this address:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
SMB/STAT
ATTN: Reference Diagnostic Laboratory, Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch (unit 78)
1600 Clifton Road, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329-4027
4. Packages should be mailed for receipt Tuesday-Friday, and should take into consideration U.S. Federal holidays. Exceptions can be made for urgent samples with prior approval.
5. Test codes for rickettsial samples:

• Anaplasma Serology	CDC-10292
• <i>Anaplasma</i> and <i>Ehrlichia</i> Molecular Detection	CDC-10290
• Anaplasma and Ehrlichia Special Study	CDC-10291
• <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> Serology	CDC-10305
• <i>Coxiella burnetii</i> Molecular Detection	CDC-10304
• <i>Coxiella</i> Special Study	CDC-10306
• <i>Ehrlichia</i> Serology	CDC-10311
• Orientia Molecular Detection	CDC-10359
• Orientia Serology	CDC-10360
• <i>Rickettsia</i> Molecular Detection	CDC-10402
• <i>Rickettsia</i> Serology Spotted Fever Group (RMSF) Serology	CDC-10403
• <i>Rickettsia</i> Serology Typhus Group Serology	CDC-10404
• <i>Rickettsia</i> Special Study	CDC-10405

For questions, please call the Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch at (404) 639-1075 or email rzbeepidiag@cdc.gov.