



**Specimen Submission: Select appropriate specimens for the clinical symptoms present, collect at proper intervals during illness, and handle as indicated below.**

<b>Specimen Required (without preservatives)</b>	<b>Preparation</b>	<b>Shipping</b>
Serum, 3 ml or Whole Blood, 6 ml	For antibody and/or immune status: submit a single serum For diagnostic determination: * by IgM tests - a single serum (a 2 <sup>nd</sup> serum may be requested later) by IgG tests -paired sera: <u>acute</u> phase collect within 7 days of onset of illness. <u>convalescent</u> phase collect 10 to 21 days later.	Ambient or refrigerated temperature
Throat Washings	Use 5 - 10 ml sterile Hank's Balanced Salt Solution or sterile saline. 3 or 4 washings from the patient may be pooled in a sterile screw-cap container. Seal tightly.	
Throat Swabs, Vaginal / cervical Swabs	A swab collection kit is provided by the State Lab but any <u>Viral</u> transport medium is acceptable.	
Spinal Fluid	Submit in a sterile screw-cap tube and seal tightly.	Specimens arriving within 24 hours of collection may be shipped refrigerated. If there will be longer storage or shipping times freezing is best. **
Vesicle Fluid, or Pustule Crusts,	Collect fluids on swabs and place in 1 ml of liquid (sterile Hank's or saline) in screw-cap container and seal tightly.	
Autopsy Tissues	Place each tissue in a separate sterile screw-cap container and seal tightly. Label each organ.	

\* A significant rise in antibody ratios or titers may determine a recent infection. It is important that there is enough time between acute and convalescent sera to allow for antibody rise. A history of transfusion within 6 weeks of serum collection will invalidate serologic test results.

\*\* When it is necessary to ship clinical samples frozen, use enough dry ice to keep sample frozen throughout shipment..

If the agent suspected is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) or Cytomegalovirus (CMV) the specimen should be refrigerated but do not freeze. It should arrive at the laboratory within 4 hours of collection.

**A completed electronic OUTREACH or #275 form must be enclosed for each patient !**  
Dates of specimen collection, and when appropriate, date of onset of illness are required!

