



# SPECIMEN COLLECTION, SHIPPING & SUPPLIES

## SPECIMEN COLLECTION for STANDARD SEROLOGY TESTS (including allergy)

By venipuncture, draw sufficient blood (red top tube) for the tests requested. Allow 2.5mL of whole blood for each 1.0mL of serum required. Allow blood to clot at room temperature for at least 15 to 30 minutes, then centrifuge. Transfer serum to a labeled plastic serum vial and store in a refrigerator or freezer until pick-up or shipping. Specimens may be shipped at ambient temperature. **If possible, send a minimum of 1.0mL of serum for each patient.** Each specimen **must be labeled and accompanied with a properly completed test request form including date of birth.**

**Note:** Serum collected in any type of red top tube is the specimen of choice. Allergen tests may be performed on plasma specimens if the anticoagulant is EDTA or heparin. Plasma collected in tubes containing citrate or oxalate **may not be used**. **When possible please send serum in transfer tubes. *When 1 allergen test is ordered 0.3 mL of serum is the minimum required.***

### FOR IgE TESTING

1 Allergen	0.5 mL serum
10 Allergens	2.0 mL serum
20 Allergens	3.0 mL serum

For IgA, IgG and IgG4 specimen requirements please see Specimen Requirements documents.

***Some tests have special specimen and shipping requirements. Refer to the directory or call IBT Reference Lab if you have any questions on specimen collection, specimen storage or shipping requirements.***

**Selection of Test Method.** IBT Reference Lab is a recognized leader in the development of specialized immunology and allergy tests. IBT Reference Lab selects the best kits and methods that are commercially available from licensed manufacturers of diagnostic reagents. Many of the tests offered by IBT Reference Lab are not available as FDA cleared tests/kits because they are specialized and have a market too small for the manufacturer to go through the expense of the FDA's approval process. For these kits, CLIA requires that the laboratory independently evaluate and determine the performance characteristics of the test being offered. There are some tests offered by IBT for which there are no commercial kits available. In such cases, the tests offered by the lab have been developed and validated by IBT Reference Lab. Finally, note that the FDA does not clear or approve tests developed by clinical laboratories since the laboratories are not diagnostic manufacturers regulated by the agency. CLIA regulations provide the appropriate oversight for labs offering tests developed *in house*. Such tests can be used for clinical purposes.

## SHIPPING & SUPPLIES

We want to ensure that the specimens sent to IBT Reference Lab are tested accurately. During transportation specimens can be compromised especially if left unattended. If possible, send specimens so that they will arrive during working hours so that they can be properly handled. Call IBT Reference Lab for assistance with shipping isolates.

IBT Reference Lab will provide Test Request Forms upon request. Customers may send specimens directly to IBT Reference Lab in postage-paid U.S. Post Office mailers. IBT Reference Lab will provide mailers and serum transfer tubes at no charge upon request (Refer to proper "Specimen Handling").

## SPECIMEN HANDLING

"Universal precautions shall be utilized in the handling of all specimens. If the specimen is to remain in the lab, it does not need to be labeled as long as the container is recognizable as containing a specimen. If the specimen leaves the facility, it must be labeled as to its contents and placed in a container along with an absorbent prior to leaving. If the specimen could puncture the primary container or if the primary container is contaminated, the specimen shall be placed in a secondary container. This secondary container shall be puncture resistant and shall prevent leakage during handling, processing, storage, transport or shipping. The secondary container must also be labeled", per USPO shipping regulations. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) also regulates the transport of clinical specimens within the U.S. Many specimens are shipped by air transport, thus shippers must comply with these regulations.