





Specimen Handling and Shipping Instructions

Viral Testing

• Tissue Samples

For optimal sensitivity, particularly for RNA virus detection, samples preserved in RNA*later* or frozen samples are preferential. Fixation of samples may result in decreased sensitivity for DNA and RNA viruses and decreased DNA yield. The following methods of preservation are acceptable:

<u>RNAlater Solution</u>: The sample should be cut into slices no more than 0.5cm across, if necessary, and immediately placed in a minimum of ten sample volumes of RNAlater solution (Qiagen Cat. #: 76154 or 76163). Samples in RNAlater can be stored up to 7 days at 18-25 ° C or up to 4 weeks at 4°C and shipped at room temperature.

<u>Snap Freezing</u>: Tissue samples should be immediately placed into a sterile collection tube and then snap—frozen by placing the tube in liquid nitrogen. Once the sample is completely frozen (10-15 minutes) the sample should be stored at -80°C, on dry ice, or in liquid nitrogen until processed. Alternatively, if liquid nitrogen is not available, the sample can be immediately frozen using a dry ice/alcohol bath.

Blood

Blood samples should be collected only when overnight shipping is available, avoid weekend and holiday collection. 3-5ml of whole blood should be collected in an EDTA (purple top) tube and stored at 4°C until time of shipping. Blood can be shipped at room temperature and must arrive within 24 hours of collection for the most accurate results.

For blood collected at CCHMC Burnet campus, please call 3-1751 Monday – Friday, 7 AM – 4 PM for immediate pickup. Avoid collecting blood on weekend and holidays.

Whole blood or plasma collected with heparin anticoagulant is NOT acceptable as heparin will inhibit PCR amplification reactions.

• Fluid Samples

Fluid samples (other than blood) should be stored at -20°C (or colder), or at 4°C if freezing is not available. However, storage at 4°C and shipping on wet ice may decrease the probability of detecting RNA viruses. At least 1ml of fluid is preferable to allow repeat analysis if necessary.

Genetic Testing

Blood

3-5 ml of whole blood samples should be collected in an EDTA (purple top) tube and stored at 4°C until shipped. Whole blood collected with heparin anticoagulant is NOT acceptable as heparin will inhibit PCR amplification reactions.

• Cultured cells

A minimum of 2 confluent T-25 flasks of cultured cells (fibroblast, amniocytes or CVS) are required. Please fill all flasks to capacity with cell culture media.

**It is highly recommended to include a sample from the mother for a maternal cell contamination study for each prenatal test. Maternal sample requirements are the same as genetic testing.

• Extracted DNA

A minimum of 15 micrograms of genomic DNA at a concentration of 50ng/µl or more, preferably in TE solution, is required.

• Saliva

Only samples collected in *Oragene DNA Self-Collection Kit* or *Oragene Collection Kit for Young Children* are accepted (www.dnagenotek.com).

More information about test specific collection requirements can be found on our Clinical Lab Index (http://www.testmenu.com/public/cltdLaunch.aspx).







Shipping Instructions

All samples should be clearly labeled with the patient's name and date of birth. Individual or multiple patient samples shipped at the same time will be rejected if any ambiguity regarding patient or sample identification exists. All specimens should be appropriately packaged to avoid crushing, breakage, or leakage. For extracted DNA samples, please include volume and concentration.

The requisition form accompanying the sample must be completed sufficiently in order to allow definitive identification of the patient sample and the test(s) requested. The form must be signed by a physician or another authorized person and the billing information completed. Failure to fully complete the forms may delay analysis.

All samples for genetic testing may be shipped at room temperature by overnight express carrier, such as FedEx, UPS or DHL) to arrive Monday through Friday. Frozen tissue and fluid samples (other than blood) for viral testing should be shipped on dry ice overnight by FedEx to arrive Monday through Friday. Avoid shipping specimens over weekend and holidays.

Ship To:

Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Attn: Heart Institute Diagnostic Laboratory 240 Albert Sabin Way, Room S4.381 Cincinnati, OH 45229-3039

Contact Information:

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/heartdx Phone 513-803-1751 Fax 513-807-1748 Email HeartDx@cchmc.org

www.cincinnatichildrens.org/heartdx Phone: 513-803-1751 Fax: 513-803-1748 Email: heartdx@cchmc.org