

Virology/Molecular Diagnostics Specimen Submission Guidelines

Collection

Successful isolation and/or detection of pathogens in clinical materials depends largely on proper collection and handling of specimens. Care should be taken to protect specimens from physical damage and maintain virus infectivity using the proper transport conditions.

1. Collect specimens aseptically during the early stages of disease (ie, first onset of clinical disease, but may be up to 7 days after the onset of illness).
2. In cases involving flock or herd problems, collect specimens from multiple animals at various stages of the disease.
3. Choose appropriate specimens for pathogen detection. Refer to the [Tests and Fees Search](#) for appropriate specimens requested for a specific test.
 - a. As a general rule, >1-2 mL whole blood and >1-2 mL serum should be collected from animals with suspected viral diseases, regardless of clinical manifestation.
 - b. Viral transport media should be used for collection and transport of swabs (preferably Dacron or compatible swabs).
 - c. Provide >1 g of feces for enteric virus diagnostics.
4. Specimens should be refrigerated at 35.6-46.4°F (2-8°C) immediately after collection.
5. Fill out the [Sample Submission Form](#), including **all** requested information. Samples should be immediately shipped to the lab under refrigerated conditions. If samples cannot be immediately shipped to the lab, they can remain refrigerated for ≤3 days or frozen at -13 to 5°F (-25 to -15°C) for short term and at ≤-94°F (≤-70°C) for long term storage. NEVER freeze whole blood samples.

Shipping

1. Ship specimens in appropriate leak-proof containers.
2. Screw-cap closures must be reinforced with tape.
3. Label each primary specimen container with appropriate identification information including owner's last name, animal name/number and type of specimen.
4. Double bag primary specimen container with a whirl-pak bag secondary container.
5. Add absorbent material to prevent leakage should breakage occur.

Ship to:

Animal Disease Diagnostic Lab
Division of Animal Health
Ohio Department of Agriculture, Building #6
8995 E Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

If you have questions about submitting a sample, please contact the ADDL:
Phone: 614-728-6220
Email: animal@agri.ohio.gov