COVID-19 Specimen Packaging Guidance

Serologic Antibody Testing

COLLECTION:

Preferred Specimen is 1 mL minimum of serum in a Gold or Marble Top Serum Separator Tube (SST) (clot activator w/gel), pictured top right. If possible, centrifuge the specimen before shipping. It is not necessary to aliquot.

SAMPLE PACKAGING:

1. Immediately following collection, **seal the lid tightly**. Leaking samples cannot be tested.

2. **Label the tube** with name and date of birth.

3. Place the collection tube into a plastic biohazard specimen bag with absorbent material, pictured center right. Do not place more than one specimen in a biohazard bag.

4. Place the test request form in the **outside pocket** of the biohazard bag (pictured bottom right). **Do not** place in the inside the bag with the specimen. **Do not** staple.

5. **Label the outside of the biohazard bag** with:
   - To: Name of Testing Lab (e.g. SHL)
   - From: Your facility name
   - “COVID-19”

6. Store specimens at 2-8°C after collection. Do not put tubes directly onto ice packs.

SAMPLE DELIVERY:

**CDS Courier**: Go to [http://www.cdsofiowa.com](http://www.cdsofiowa.com) to arrange courier pick-up through Central Delivery Service of Iowa. Pickup requests should be entered by 11:00 AM. Samples must be fully prepared and packaged prior to CDS arrival.

**Shipping**: Ship overnight via UPS or FedEx following Category B shipping requirements.

**Hand-delivery**: Bring to the State Hygienic Laboratory Sample Drop-Off window during business hours (refer to www.shl.uiowa.edu).

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