

# Indiana Courier System: Specimen Transport Guide



Please use this table to determine appropriate temperature and transit times for specimens transported through the Indiana Courier System.

| <b>Laboratory Section</b><br><br>Please use this column to determine the <b>Sample Type</b> for each test to input in the STAT Courier Client Portal. | <b>Lab Test</b>  | <b>Specimen Type</b> | <b>Temperature Conditions</b><br><br>Options: Ambient (Room Temperature), Refrigerated, Frozen | <b>Maximum Transit Time</b><br><br>(Time elapsed from collection to arrival at IDOHL) |
|---|--|----------------------|--|---|
| <b>Antimicrobial Resistance</b>   | <i>Candida auris</i> (including other <i>Candida sp.</i> ) | Agar Slant           | Ambient, Category B  | Within 3 days of collection   |
|   | CP-CRE/CRE<br>CP-CRPA<br>CP-CRAB                           | Agar Slant           | Ambient, Category B  | Within 3 days of collection   |
|   | <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (including VISA, VRSA)        | Agar Slant           | Ambient, Category B  | Within 3 days of collection   |
| <b>For an up-to-date list of biothreat testing at IDOHL, contact the IDOH Laboratory at 317-921-5500.</b>   |  |                      |  |   |
| <b>Biothreat</b>  | Suspect Anthrax ( <i>Bacillus anthracis</i> )              | Isolate              | Ambient, Category A  | Please contact IDOHL for maximum transit times.                                       |
|   | Suspect Brucellosis  | Isolate              | Ambient, Category A  |   |
|   | Suspect Glanders ( <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> )            | Isolate              | Ambient, Category A  |   |
|   | Suspect Melioidosis ( <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i> )   | Isolate              | Ambient, Category A  |   |
|   | Suspect Plague ( <i>Yersinia pestis</i> )                  | Isolate              | Ambient, Category A  |   |
|   | Suspect Tularemia ( <i>Francisella tularensis</i> )        | Isolate              | Ambient, Category A  |   |

| Laboratory Section | Lab Test   | Specimen Type  | Temperature Conditions   | Maximum Transit Time          |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Blood Lead         | Blood Lead   | Whole Blood, EDTA or Heparin anticoagulant. Includes venous blood tubes and capillary microtainers | Ambient, Category B      | Within 4 months of collection |
|                    |  | Whole Blood - Filter Paper   | Ambient                  | Within 4 months of collection |
| Enterics           | <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> ,<br><i>Bacillus cereus</i> , or<br><i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> Toxins   | Stool  | Refrigerated, Category B | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Shiga Toxin-Producing <i>E. coli</i> / <i>E. coli</i> 0157   | Isolate, Stool, or Broth   | Ambient, Category A      | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | <i>Listeria</i> spp. (including <i>L. monocytogenes</i> )  | Isolate, Broth   | Ambient, Category B      | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Salmonellosis (including <i>Salmonella typhi</i> )   | Isolate, Stool, or Broth   | Ambient, Category B      | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Shigellosis  | Isolate, Stool, or Broth   | Ambient, Category B      | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Vibriosis (including <i>Vibrio cholerae</i> )  | Isolate, Stool, or Broth   | Ambient, Category B      | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Viral gastroenteritis (Norovirus)  | Stool  | Refrigerated, Category B | Within 5 days of collection   |
| Entomology         | Specimens for this laboratory section are <b>ONLY</b> submitted by the Field Entomology Team or approved Local Health Departments. Sites sending these packages have been individually contacted regarding this package type and trained on the submission protocol. |  |                          |                               |
|                    | Entomology Surveillance  | Environmental Mosquitoes   | Refrigerated             | ASAP                          |



| Laboratory Section                   | Lab Test   | Specimen Type   | Temperature Conditions   | Maximum Transit Time         |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Environmental Lead</b>            | Environmental Lead samples are not biohazardous and do <b>NOT</b> need to be placed in a biohazard bag for transit. Please isolate or double bag specimens to prevent contamination and do not combine blood lead specimens in the same bag. |   |                          |                              |
|                                      | Lead in Dust Wipes   | Dust Wipes  | Ambient                  | Within 14 days of collection |
|                                      | Lead in Paint Chips  | Paint Chips   | Ambient                  | Within 14 days of collection |
|                                      | Lead in Soil   | Soil  | Ambient                  | Within 14 days of collection |
|                                      | Lead in Spices or Other Food Items   | Spices or Other Food Items  | Ambient                  | Within 14 days of collection |
|                                      | Lead in Cosmetics or Consumer Products   | Cosmetics or Consumer Products  | Ambient                  | Within 14 days of collection |
|                                      | Lead in Drinking Water   | Drinking Water  | Ambient                  | Within 14 days of collection |
| <b>Mycobacteriology/Tuberculosis</b> | Mycobacterial isolates   | Slants, MGIT  | Ambient, Category A      | N/A                          |
|                                      | TB Specimens (AFB)   | Sputum, etc.  | Refrigerated, Category B | Within 7 days of collection  |
|                                      | TB QuantiFERON   | Whole Blood   | Refrigerated, Category B | Within 2 days of collection  |
| <b>Rabies</b>                        | Rabies   | Animal head or appropriate brain tissue for all animals, except bats; whole bat should be submitted | Refrigerated, Category B | Within 5 days of collection  |



| Laboratory Section     | Lab Test   | Specimen Type                       | Temperature Conditions              | Maximum Transit Time           |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Reference Bacteriology | Group A <i>Streptococcus</i> (invasive disease)  | Isolate on slant                    | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within <24 hours of collection |
|                        | Group B <i>Streptococcus</i> (invasive disease)  | Isolate on slant                    | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within <24 hours of collection |
|                        | <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> (invasive disease)   | Isolate on slant                    | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within <24 hours of collection |
|                        | <i>Neisseria meningitidis</i> (invasive disease)   | Isolate on slant                    | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within <24 hours of collection |
|                        | Pneumococcal Invasive Disease - <i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>  | Isolate on slant                    | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within <24 hours of collection |
|                        |  |                                     |                                     |                                |
| Serology               | <b>For additional serological testing options, please consult the IDOH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention Division at 317-233-7125 during business hours or 317-233-1325 after hours.</b>  |                                     |                                     |                                |
|                        | All serum specimens submitted to the Serology Laboratory <b>MUST</b> be in one of the following tube types: tiger top serum separator tubes, gold top serum separator tubes, or red top serum separator tubes. Tubes cannot contain any additives, such as EDTA, sodium, lithium, etc. |                                     |                                     |                                |
|                        | Arbovirus IFA Panel (WNV, WEE, SLE, EEE and CE)  | Serum                               | Refrigerated, Category B**          | Within 5 days of collection    |
|                        | Arbovirus: West Nile IgG/IgM   | Serum                               | Refrigerated, Category B**          | Within 48 hours of collection  |
|                        | Chlamydia/Gonorrhea (CT/GC)  | Urine                               | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within 30 days of collection   |
| Swab                   |  | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B | Within 60 days of collection        |                                |



| Laboratory Section | Lab Test  | Specimen Type         | Temperature Conditions                | Maximum Transit Time          |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Serology</b>    | Hepatitis A   | Serum                 | Ambient, Category B**                 | Within 3 days of collection   |
|                    |   |                       | Refrigerated, Category B**            | Within 7 days of collection   |
|                    | Hepatitis B   | Serum                 | Refrigerated, Category B**            | Within 6 days of collection   |
|                    | Hepatitis C (NAAT)  | Serum                 | Ambient, Category B**                 | Within 24 hours of collection |
|                    |   |                       | Refrigerated, Category B**            | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Hepatitis C (Serology)  | Serum                 | Ambient or Refrigerated, Category B** | Within 7 days of collection   |
|                    | HIV   | Serum                 | Ambient, Category B**                 | Within 7 days of collection   |
|                    | Measles IgG & IgM   | Serum                 | Refrigerated, Category B**            | Within 2 days of collection   |
|                    | Mumps IgG   | Serum                 | Refrigerated, Category B**            | Within 2 days of collection   |
| Syphilis           | Serum   | Ambient, Category B** | Within 5 days of collection           |                               |
| <b>SSP</b>         | Opioid Surveillance   | Syringes              | Ambient                               | Within 7 days of collection   |
| <b>Virology</b>    | <b>For additional virological testing options, please consult the IDOH Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Prevention Division at 317-233-7125 during business hours or 317-233-1325 after hours.</b> |                       |                                       |                               |
|                    | Adenovirus  | NP or OP Swab         | Refrigerated**                        | Within 5 days of collection   |



| Laboratory Section | Lab Test                                       | Specimen Type   | Temperature Conditions   | Maximum Transit Time          |
|--------------------|--|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Virology</b>    | Enterovirus (Hand, Foot & Mouth, EV-D68, etc.) | Stool; NP or OP Swab  | Refrigerated**           | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)                     | Lesion Swab or Vesicle Fluid  | Refrigerated**           | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Influenza/SARS-CoV-2                           | NP Swab   | Refrigerated**           | Within 3 days of collection   |
|                    | Measles (PCR)                                  | NP Swab or OP Swab  | Refrigerated**           | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Mpox   | Lesion Swab   | Refrigerated**           | Within 7 days of collection   |
|                    | Mumps (PCR)                                    | Oral/Buccal or Oropharyngeal Swab   | Refrigerated**           | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Varicella Zoster Virus                         | Lesion Swab or Vesicle Fluid  | Refrigerated**           | Within 5 days of collection   |
|                    | Zika, Dengue, and Chikungunya PCR (Trioplex)   | Serum (SST with Gold or Tiger Top) or Whole Blood in a Red top.<br><br>CSF, Urine, and Amniotic Fluid may also be submitted. All must accompany a serum specimen. Urine and Amniotic fluid may only be tested for Zika. | Refrigerated**           | Within 7 days of collection   |
| <b>Wastewater</b>  | Wastewater Samples                             | Wastewater  | Refrigerated, Category B | Within 24 hours of collection |

\*Specimen Submission Instructions can be found on the IDOHL website under Available Tests: <https://www.in.gov/health/laboratories/testing/available-tests/>

\*\*See specimen submission instructions on the IDOHL website for frozen specimen requirements.

**NOTE:** IDOHL may have additional testing capabilities not included in this guide. IDOHL may use reference laboratories for testing that may include tests and specimens not included in this list. For additional testing options, please call the IDOH Laboratory at 317-921-5500.

