



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

BLOOD AND SMEARS FOR PARASITE EXAMINATION

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

- Temperature: Room temperature (15–25 °C/59–77 °F)

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

- EDTA blood tube

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS TEST

- 4040: Blood smear for parasites

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Collect an EDTA tube with the draw time marked on the tube as well as the date and patient's name.
2. Make minimum of four (4) thick and four (4) thin smears as soon as possible or **WITHIN 4 HOURS OF COLLECTION. DO NOT FIX.**

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

1. Optimally, the above EDTA tube and subsequent smears should be **delivered to the Public Health Laboratory on the same day it is collected.**
2. If there is a delay in transport, refrigerate the EDTA blood and blood smear(s) and deliver as quickly as possible to the Public Health Laboratory.
3. Alternatively, the patient can contact the Public Health Department at (805) 781-5500 to make an appointment for a blood draw to avoid any transport delays.

If there are any questions regarding a specimen's acceptability, please contact the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (805) 781-5507.