



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

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SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

Serum Serology

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

Temperature and Maximum Holding Time (time from collection to test set-up in laboratory):

- Whole blood: Store at room temperature. Centrifuge or transport to the laboratory with 24 hours of collection.
- Plasma: Collect in an EDTA (lavender-top), lithium heparin (green-top), or citrate (light blue-top) tube. After centrifugation, store plasma at room temperature for up to 24 hours or at 2–8°C (refrigerated) for up to 7 days. Transport on ice.
- Serum: Collect in a serum separator tube (SST). After centrifugation, store plasma at room temperature for up to 24 hours or at 2–8°C (refrigerated) for up to 7 days. Transport on ice.

Exceptions: for any exceptions to collection, storage or transport conditions, please call lab first to discuss.

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

Serum: Collected in an SST tube or sera separated from whole clotted blood collected without anticoagulant.

Plasma: Collected in an EDTA, lithium heparin, or citrate tube.

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS KIT

5800: Hepatitis C serology

5500: HIV 1,2 antibody-antigen immunoassay

5700: HIV antibody differentiation test

5700: HIV RNA qualitative test

REJECTION CRITERIA

- For whole blood or non-spun tubes: holding time greater than 24 hours at room temperature
- For separated serum or plasma: holding time greater than 7 days at 2–8°C
- Specimen container not labeled
- Specimen container not sealed properly
- Grossly contaminated, hemolyzed, lipemic, or icteric specimens should not be used



Examples of SST Tubes