

CLINICAL TESTING FOLLOWING A SUSPECTED CHEMICAL EXPOSURE EVENT

Business Hours
(M-F, 8AM-5PM)
(518) 474-7161

Important: If you suspect exposure to a chemical agent, you **must** contact the Wadsworth Center before collecting and submitting any clinical specimens
(These instructions apply to New York State, excluding the 5 boroughs of New York City)

After Hours
Public Health Duty Officer
(866) 881-2809

Step 1: COLLECTION

Blood-Sample Collection
For each person, collect blood in glass or plastic tubes in the following order: 1st: collect specimens in three (3) EDTA (purple-top) 4 mL or larger plastic or glass tubes; 2nd: collect another specimen in one (1) gray- or green-top tube. Collect the specimens by following the steps below:

- 1 Collect a minimum of 12 mL of blood in three (3) 4 mL or larger glass or plastic tubes. If using 3 mL tubes, use four tubes.
Do not use gel separators.
- 2 Mix contents of tubes by inverting them 5 or 6 times.
Label tubes in order of collection: #1, #2, #3
- 3 Place bar-coded labels on each tube, so that when the tubes are upright, the barcode looks like a ladder.
Store samples at 1°C to 10°C. Do not freeze.
- 4 After collecting samples in the purple-top tubes, collect one (1) sample in a gray- or green-top tube (gray-top tube shown). Allow the tube to fill to its stated capacity.
Do not use gel separators.
- 5 Mix contents of the tube by inverting it 5 or 6 times.
- 6 Place bar-coded labels on the tube, so that when the tube is upright, the barcode looks like a ladder.
Store samples at 1°C to 10°C. Do not freeze.

Urine-Sample Collection
For each person, collect 25 mL- 50 mL of urine in a screw-cap urine cup.



Label the urine cup with the appropriate bar-coded label as shown. Indicate on the cup how the sample was collected if the method was other than "clean catch" (i.e., catheterization).
Freeze samples (optimally at -70°C).

Place bar-coded labels on all cups so that when the cup is upright, the barcode looks like a ladder.

For children, collect only urine samples unless otherwise directed by CDC.

Begin chain-of-custody (COC) forms and keep with specimens at all times

Step 2: PACKAGING and DOCUMENTATION Pack and Ship Clinical Specimens as **Category B Infectious Substances**

BLOOD SPECIMENS	URINE SPECIMENS
Primary Receptacle	
BLOOD TUBE (NON-GEL) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3ml or larger purple-top • 3ml or larger gray-/green-top 	URINE CUP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile, plastic, screw-capped
Secondary Packaging	
Materials for protecting primary receptacles, absorbent material, and waterproof, 95 kPa pressure resistant packaging	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep blood tubes separated, or wrap tubes to prevent contact between them • Place specimens in secondary packaging. Package blood tubes by patient number so that all specimens from the same patient are together • Add absorbent material (enough to absorb entire contents of all tubes) • Secure first layer of secondary packaging with a single strip of evidence tape initialed 1/2 on the container and 1/2 on the tape by the person making the seal • Wrap and seal first layer of secondary packing with absorbent material • Place into additional layer(s) of secondary packaging (if necessary) and secure outermost layer with a single strip of evidence tape initialed 1/2 on the container and 1/2 on the tape by the person making the seal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep urine cups separated, or wrap cups to prevent contact between them • Place specimens in secondary packaging • Secure first layer of secondary packaging with a single strip of evidence tape initialed 1/2 on the container and 1/2 on the tape by the person making the seal • Place into additional layer(s) of secondary packaging (if necessary) and secure outermost layer with a single strip of evidence tape initialed 1/2 on the container and 1/2 on the tape by the person making the seal
Outer Packaging	
Polystyrene foam-insulated corrugated fiberboard shippers	
Do not ship blood tubes and frozen urine cups in the same package	
Ship at 1°C-10°C <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place absorbent material in the bottom of the shipper • Add a layer of refrigerator packs • Place secondary packaging on top of refrigerator packs • Add additional cushioning material to minimize shifting during transport • Add an additional layer of refrigerator packs 	Ship to ensure specimens remain frozen or freeze while in transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place absorbent material in the bottom of the shipper • Add a layer of dry ice (Do not use large chunks/flakes) • Place secondary packaging on top of dry ice • Add additional cushioning material to minimize shifting during transport • Add an additional layer of dry ice
Documentation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since blood tubes and urine cups are shipped separately, prepare a separate shipping manifest for each • Place shipping manifest in a sealable plastic bag on top of specimens before closing lid of shipper 	

Step 3: SHIPPING PREPARATIONS

- Secure outer packaging tops and bottoms with filamentous shipping tape
- Affix labels and markings adjacent to the shippers/consignees' address
- Place a UN3373 diamond marking on the shipper
- Place the proper shipping name, "**Biological substance, Category B**" adjacent to the UN3373 marking
- For packages containing dry ice, place a **Class 9 Hazard Label** on the same side of the shipper as the UN3373 marking. If the proper shipping name, either "**dry ice**" or "**carbon dioxide solid**," and UN1845 is not preprinted on the hazard label, add it adjacent to the label. Note the weight of dry ice on the preprinted area of the hazard label
- Orientation arrows are not required
- Complete an airway bill if transported by a commercial air carrier

Step 4: SHIPPING SPECIMENS Laboratory Approval Required

Wadsworth Center
NYS Department of Health
Dock J-P1 Level
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12237

Follow your facility's policy to maintain proper COC of specimens