



Chikungunya and Dengue PCR and Serology Specimen Criteria



Specimen Types	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serum Aliquot (Please ship a minimum of 1 mL) • DO NOT ship <u>whole blood</u>
Specimen Collection and Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect at least 5 mL blood in a red top blood collection tube. Centrifuge within 2 hours from the time of collection to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot). Transfer the serum from the red top tube into a serum transport tube. <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect at least 5 mL blood in a gold top or tiger top blood collection tube containing a gel serum separator (SST). Centrifuge the SST within 2 hours from the time of collection to separate the serum from the red blood cells (clot). If the specimen will be received at the laboratory more than 48 hours after collection, transfer the serum into a serum transport tube. DO NOT freeze the SST for shipping: freezing will cause hemolysis, and hemolyzed specimens will be unsatisfactory for testing. • Specimens should be placed in a biohazard bag and stored at 4°C or -20°C as indicated below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specimens that are shipped the same day of collection and will arrive at the lab within 48 hours of collection can be stored at 4°C and should be shipped with cold packs. ○ Specimens that will be stored and arrive at the lab more than 48 hours after collection should be stored at -20°C and shipped on dry ice.
Specimen Shipping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport specimens to the laboratory as soon as possible. • Do not ship on Fridays or before government holidays. • Ship serum transport tubes or centrifuged SSTs Monday-Thursday by overnight delivery. Specimens collected on a Friday-Sunday should be centrifuged and transferred into a serum transport tube as described above. • PCR testing: Complete the G2V form for each specimen (G2V forms may be requested by calling Lab Reporting at 512-776-7578). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check “Chikungunya PCR” and “Dengue PCR” in Section 4 of the G2V and record the date of onset and travel history (required prior to testing). • Serology testing: Complete the G2A form for each specimen (G2A forms may also be requested by calling Lab Reporting at 512-776-7578). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Check “Other” in Section 7 and write in Chikungunya and Dengue. • The name on the tube should match the name on the form exactly. • Ship to the physical address: TX DSHS Lab Services, 1100 W. 49th Street, Austin TX, 78756. • Record the shipping tracking number and notify your local health department that a specimen is being shipped.
Additional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect the specimen as soon as possible after onset of illness. • PLEASE NOTE: Specimens collected within 5 days of symptom onset should request testing via PCR. (G2V submission form). • PLEASE NOTE: Specimens collected at Day 5 or greater after symptom onset should request testing via Serology. (G2A submission form). • PLEASE NOTE: Specimens collected on the 5th day after onset should request both PCR and Serology. (Both a G2V form and a G2A form, and 2 tubes should be submitted). • For questions about chikungunya or dengue PCR testing, please contact Crystal Van Cleave at 512-776-7594. • For questions about chikungunya or dengue Serology testing, please contact Karen Teague at 512-776-7514. • For general questions about chikungunya and dengue in Texas, please contact the DSHS Zoonosis Control Branch at 512-776-7255. • A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention factsheet with Chikungunya Information for Healthcare Providers is available at http://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/pdfs/chikv_clinicians.pdf.