

Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions West Nile Virus / St. Louis encephalitis (Version 1) Page 1 of 2

Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Blood	CSF: 3 days post onset of symptoms. Serum: 8 days post onset of symptoms.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood: Collect at least 4 ml in a red top or red-gray top tube. • Minimum serum volume: 2 ml. • CSF: Collect at least 1 ml in a sterile leak-proof container. • Minimum CSF volume: 1 ml. 	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: Red top or red-gray top tube (blood / serum) or sterile leak-proof container (CSF). • Transport: Refrigerate and ship cold (2-8°C) on ice packs to arrive at WAPHL during business hours within one week of collection. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. Ship as Category B. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C up to one week after collection. For long-term storage, freeze at -20°C. • Rejection Criteria: Please see general rejection criteria on page 2.
Serum					
CSF					

General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Did not obtain LHJ approval.
- Failure to follow specific S&H requirements.

NOTE:

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, second identifier, and date of onset.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments