

## Specimen Submission Requirements for the Syphilis Serology - Blood

<b>Methodology:</b>	RPR (Qualitative only), VDRL (Qualitative and Quantitative), FTA-ABS
<b>Performed:</b>	The Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division will accept whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or serum specimens from Monday through Friday by 3:30 p.m.
<b>Turn-Around-Time:</b>	5 days
<b>Specimen Collection:</b>	One 6 –7 mL tube of whole blood (clot vacutainer or SST tube) or a minimum of 1 mL of serum.
<b>Specimen Transport:</b>	Specimens are to be delivered to the Medical Microbiology Branch of the State Laboratories Division at a transport temperature of 2 – 8° C. Whole blood specimens should be stored at 2 – 8° C and transported to the State Laboratory at the recommended transport temperature within five (5) days from the collection date.
<b>Requisition Form:</b>	<u>Syphilis Examination of Blood</u> requisition form (Form lab 15/84). This state requisition form is a triplicate form. <b><u>Please do not tear and remove any part of the form.</u></b> At a minimum, patient identifier, name and address of submitter, date of collection, and purpose for which specimen was taken (prenatal, diagnostic, control of treatment, reference or confirmation) must be completed on the form. If submitter requests that an FTA-ABS be done, please write-in this request (“please do FTA”) on the middle right portion of the form.
<b>Normal Value:</b>	<b>RPR (Qualitative):</b> Non-reactive <b>VDRL (Qualitative and Quantitative):</b> Non-reactive <b>FTA-ABS:</b> Non-reactive
<b>Result Notification:</b>	Laboratory reports will be forwarded to both the submitter and the Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic.
<b>Remarks:</b>	Please be sure that completed requisition forms are legible. Requisition forms <u>and</u> specimen tubes are not to be placed in the <u>same</u> chamber of the specimen transport container or bag. <b>All specimens received for the syphilis examination of blood will be tested with the RPR (qualitative) test. Specimens that are found to be “reactive” on the RPR will be further tested with the VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) and FTA-ABS test. If the submitter requests an FTA-ABS, both the VDRL</b>

**(qualitative and quantitative) and the FTA-ABS test will be performed in addition to the RPR. If "control of treatment" is indicated on the form, only the RPR (qualitative) and VDRL (qualitative and quantitative) will be performed.**

- Unacceptable Conditions:**
- a. Illegible or incomplete requisition forms.
  - b. Unlabeled tubes.
  - c. Chylous specimens (unable to read newsprint through specimen tube).
  - d. Hemolyzed specimens (unable to read newsprint through specimen tube).
  - e. Leaking blood or serum specimens.
  - f. Specimen quantity not sufficient (<1 mL of serum) to perform test.
  - g. Whole blood in collection tube containing an anticoagulant.
  - h. Grossly contaminated with microorganisms.
  - i. Specimens warmer than the required transport temperature.
  - j. Specimens other than whole blood (without anticoagulant) or serum.

**Test Location:**

State Laboratories Division  
Medical Microbiology Branch  
Bacteriology and Parasitology Section  
Bacterial Serology Unit  
2725 Waimano Home Rd., 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Pearl City, Hawaii 96782  
Phone: (808) 453-6706

**Approved:**



A. Christian Whelen, Ph.D.  
State Laboratories Division Administrator

6-7-07

Date