

Clinical Specimen Storage and Shipping Guidance

Clinical specimens for testing at the Waycross Public Health Laboratory (WPHL) should be shipped within 24 hours of collection by courier. When shipping must be delayed (e.g., inclement weather, courier closures), guidelines are given below on proper transport conditions of common specimen types.

	<i>If shipping immediately</i>	<i>If shipping is delayed</i>	
Measles IgG	≤ 9 days	 DRY ICE REQUIRED 	 Refrigerate specimens 2-8°C post collection. Specimens must be received cold (2-8°C) on frozen ice packs within the number of hours/days as indicated in the chart from time of collection.
Rubella IgG	≤ 3 days	 DRY ICE REQUIRED 	
VZV IgG	≤ 7 days	 DRY ICE REQUIRED 	
Syphilis	≤ 5 days	 DRY ICE REQUIRED 	
Mumps IgG	≤ 9 days	 DRY ICE REQUIRED 	
Rabies	As soon as possible		 Freeze specimens at ≤ -70°C post collection. Ship overnight via commercial courier on dry ice.
Trichomonas vaginalis	Varies by specimen type, see LSM for details		
Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea	Varies by specimen type, see LSM for details		
SARS CoV-2	Varies by specimen type, see LSM for details		 Freeze specimens at ≤ -20°C post collection. Ship overnight via commercial courier on dry ice.
			 Store and ship at ambient temperature. Specimens must be received within the number of hours/days as indicated in the chart from time of collection.
			 Unique requirements, refer to Laboratory Service Manual (LSM)