

Sample storage

- before sending to the laboratory

Sometimes it's just not possible to send samples to the laboratory on the same day they are collected, but how should you store them overnight?

Following these guidelines will help ensure the samples reach us in peak condition for testing. If you aren't sure what testing you want on a given case, we still recommend you send the samples to the laboratory as soon as you can, as we can store them appropriately for you. We are required to keep all samples for at least two weeks, so will always "hold" any that you haven't requested testing on.

Sample	Container / tube colour	Refrigerate	Room temp.	Freeze
EDTA (whole blood)	Purple top tube	✓		
Serum (whole blood)	Red or gold top tube	✓		
Serum (separated, not on clot)	Red or gold top tube	✓		
Citrate (whole blood)	Blue top tube	✓		
Fluoride oxalate (whole blood)	Grey top tube	✓		
Heparin (whole blood)	Green top tube	✓		
Urine	Mottle top tube	✓		
Urine	Sterile pottle	✓		
Swabs/fresh tissue / fluids	Sterile pottle	✓		
Faeces (except for larval culture)	Sterile pottle	✓		
Cadavers	Bagged	✓		
Blood films	Glass slide		✓	
Air dried smears	Glass slide		✓	
Fixed tissue	Sterile pottle		✓	
Faeces (for larval culture)	Sterile pottle		✓	
Hair	Sterile pottle		✓	
Fresh tissue / milk	Sterile pottle			✓
Serum (separated, not clot)	Red top tube			✓
Cadavers [#]	Bagged			✓

[#] If transport delay is longer than overnight. Please note, if cadavers are frozen, tissues retrieved will be unsuitable for histopathology.

We recommend ALL samples be submitted to the laboratory as soon as possible after collection.

