



COLORADO

Department of Agriculture

Division of Laboratory Services

**Animal Health Laboratory
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Serology Testing Sample Submission Protocol

These guidelines apply to all serology tests submitted to the Animal Health Laboratory (AHL)

1. An accredited veterinarian must obtain all blood samples unless directed otherwise by the laboratory.
2. Collect blood samples in red top tubes. Do not send plasma. Use a new needle and syringe for each animal sampled. Please provide 5 cc of whole blood or 1-2 cc of serum for each test needed whenever possible. Protect blood samples from direct sunlight, extreme heat, and freezing to prevent hemolysis and degradation of serum.
3. Number the samples in consecutive order to match the submission form. Use permanent ink. The collection date must be noted on the submission form or blood tube. Indicate the specific tests needed. The laboratory generally holds samples for 30 days but does not guarantee a sample will still be available for future testing so please plan accordingly.
4. Samples should be sent to the lab as soon as possible after collection. Samples may be sent with cold packs to prevent lysis during warmer months and insulated to protect from freezing during colder months. Please package samples carefully so they are not damaged or do not leak in transit. Submissions should comply with applicable biosafety guidelines and shipping regulations. Contact AHL for specific submitting instructions and/or assistance.