

# NCSLPH Clinical Specimen Storage

**Clinical specimens for testing at the NCSLPH should be shipped within 24 hours of collection.**

When shipping must be delayed (e.g., inclement weather, courier closures), guidelines are given below on proper storage and shipping of common specimen types. Please see our [SCOPE](#) for detailed guidance.

	<b>If shipping immediately</b>	<b>If shipping is delayed</b>	
COVID-19 + Flu PCR	≤ 72 hours	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	<p>■ Refrigerate. Specimens must be received cold on frozen ice packs within the number of hours/days as indicated in the chart from time of collection.</p> <p>❄️ Freeze at -70°C. Ship overnight via commercial courier on dry ice.</p> <p>❄️ Freeze at -20°C. Ship overnight via commercial courier on dry ice.</p> <p>* Submission requires prior approval</p> <p>■ 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.</p> <p>■ Unique requirements, refer to SCOPE</p>
Legionella Clinical	≤ 3 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
CHIKV, EEE, LACV, SLE, WEE, WNV	≤ 2 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Dengue (DENV)	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Hepatitis A (HAV)	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Hepatitis B (HBV)	≤ 4 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Hepatitis C (HCV)	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
HIV	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
HIV/HCV	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Measles/Mumps PCR*	≤ 3 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Measles Serology*	≤ 3 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Rickettsia + Ehrlichia	≤ 3 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Rubella	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Syphilis RPR	≤ 3 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Syphilis TP	≤ 5 days	❄️ DRY ICE REQUIRED ❄️	
Bordetella Culture	≤ 3 days		
Bordetella PCR	≤ 7 days		
HSV/VZV NAAT	≤ 5 days		
Hemoglobin Whole Blood	≤ 6 days		
Blood Lead	≤ 28 days, including prenatal		
Micro Reference Cultures	Ship ambient as soon as possible		
Legionella Culture	Ship ambient as soon as possible		
NBS Dried Blood Spots (DBS)	≤ 14 days, avoid excessive heat and/or humidity		
Hemoglobin Screening DBS	≤ 14 days		
Neisseria Culture	Must be shipped ambient as soon as possible, see SCOPE for <i>N. gonorrhoeae</i> subculture details		
BTEP* and CTAT*	Call 919-807-8600 (BTEP) or 919-602-2481 (CTAT) prior to any submission for guidance on collection, labeling, packaging, and shipment		
Chlamydia/Gonorrhea TMA	May be received cold or ambient, ≤ 28 days		
Enteric Bacteriology	Varies by specimen type, see SCOPE for details		
Mycobacteriology (TB)	Varies by specimen type, see SCOPE for details		
Mycology	Varies by specimen type, see SCOPE for details		
Parasitology	Varies by specimen type, see SCOPE for details		
Rabies	Ship cold ASAP, freezing not recommended		
Viral Culture	Varies by specimen type, see SCOPE for details		



**NC Department of Health and Human Services**  
**Division of Public Health**  
**North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health**  
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