

**Marin County HHS Public Health Laboratory
SARS Specimen Collection Instructions (1/16/04)**

Report suspected case to Marin County Communicable Disease (415) 499-7805; after hours call County Communication Center (415) 499-7237, 7235, 7238 and ask for the Health Officer. Patients must meet CDC case definition: www.cdc.gov/ncidod/sars/casedefinition.htm

To be sent ASAP: Acute (0-7 days of onset)

Specimen	Collection Container	Storage and Shipping
2 NP or throat swabs	Dacron swabs, place in Viral Transport Medium	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack
Sputum, BAL, tracheal aspirate or pleural fluid	Sterile container	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack
Acute serum, ≥ 3 cc	Red top or serum separator tube	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack

During 2nd/3rd Week of Illness

Specimen	Collection Container	Storage and Shipping
1 NP/OP swab or NP wash/aspirate	Dacron swabs, place in Viral Transport Medium	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack
Sputum, BAL, tracheal aspirate or pleural fluid	Sterile container	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack
Stool	Sterile container	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack

To be sent later: Convalescent (≥ 28 days)

Specimen	Collection Container	Storage and Shipping
Convalescent serum ≥ 3 cc	Red top or serum separator tube	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack
Stool	Sterile container	Refrigerate, ship with cold pack

Fatal cases: All of the above specimens and fixed tissue from all major organs, Frozen tissue from lung and upper airway

Instructions for Sending Specimens

Each specimen should be labeled with **date of collection**, **specimen type**, and **patient name**.

Specimens should be on **cold pack**

Send specimens to: **Department of Health Services
Specimen Receiving / SARS
850 Marina Bay Parkway
Richmond, CA 94804**

Please do not send specimens on a Friday. Refrigerate specimens over the weekend & send on Monday. Specimens should be sent using an **overnight courier** if possible.

**Questions? Call: Marin County Communicable Diseases (415) 499-7805;
Marin County HHS Public Health Lab (415) 499-6849**

or **CA DHS Viral and Rickettsial Disease Laboratory
David Cottam at (510) 307-8585**