

Dengue Clinical Sample Submission Guidelines

When dengue is suspected in a patient, a sample should be promptly submitted to either the DOH Bureau of Laboratories in Tampa or a commercial laboratory such as Quest or LabCorp. The following categories will help you determine which laboratory is appropriate:

DOH Bureau of Laboratories

- (1) Acute sample (≤ 5 days post onset)
 - Submit to BOL-Tampa
- (2) Only available sample is convalescent (≥ 6 days post onset) **without travel** to endemic country or Key West (suspect local transmission outside of Key West)
 - Submit to BOL-Tampa or BOL-Jacksonville

Commercial Laboratory

- (3) Only available sample is convalescent (≥ 6 days post onset) **with travel** to endemic country or Key West

To submit a sample to the state laboratory, collect a red top or tiger top tube and follow packaging and shipping guidelines for diagnostic specimens (<https://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/laboratoryservices.htm>). If the sample is acute (collected five or fewer days post onset), the sera should be shipped frozen on dry ice to the address below: Note: although this is best for detecting virus, viral RNA may still be detectable in freshly collected acute serum that is immediately sent overnight to the laboratory in a cooler with frozen gel ice.

DOH BOL Tampa –Virology
3602 Spectrum Boulevard
Tampa, FL 33612
Phone: 813-974-5990
Fax: 813-974-5776

DOH BOL Jacksonville-Virology
1217 Pearl Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: 904-791-1540
Fax: 904-791-1542

A completed Florida Department of Health laboratory submission form should accompany all specimens (http://www.doh.state.fl.us/lab/PDF_Files/doh_form.pdf). The name of the contact at the county health department who approved sample submission to BOL should be included on the submission form. For acute samples, indicate Arbovirus PCR and Arbovirus Antibody. For convalescent samples, indicate only Arbovirus Antibody. In both cases, the following steps should be completed:

- Write dengue in the comments section on the bottom of the form
- Fill in date of onset and travel in the mandatory arbovirus section
- Include date of specimen collection at the top of the form
- Fill in Health Care Provider Information box with the name, address, and contact phone of the person to whose attention the final laboratory report is to be sent

Prior to requesting that a commercial lab forward a specimen to DOH Bureau of Laboratories please consult with the Arbovirus Surveillance Coordinator. The DOH laboratory specimen submission form should be filled out in full by the CHD and faxed to BOL with a note stating from which commercial laboratory the specimen has been requested. If commercial lab results are already available, fax them along with the submission form.