



**Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Laboratories**

**Instructions for Malaria Specimen Submission**

1. Use a lavender/purple top vacutainer tube containing EDTA anticoagulant. Collect a minimum of 1.0 mL of blood. Mix specimen(s) by gentle inversion five to 10 times.
2. Label the specimen tube with the patient's full name and date of birth.
3. Complete all information on the Communicable Diseases test requisition. Preliminary microscopic observations including semi-quantitation, such as low-level of parasitemia, etc., should be included on page two in the "Other Pertinent Information" section of the Communicable Diseases Laboratory Test Requisition form.
5. **Messenger/Courier by ground transport:** Wrap specimen in absorbent material. Place wrapped specimen into a biohazard labeled bag and seal securely. Place the test requisition on the outside of the biohazard labeled bag. Place the sealed biohazard bag and test requisition inside the shipping container. The shipping container must be rigid such as a cooler and labeled with the UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B marking. Close securely.
6. **Commercial carrier by ground/air transport:** Place the specimen inside a biohazard labeled 95 kPa bag and add sufficient absorbent material to absorb the entire contents. Seal following the instructions on the bag. Place the test requisition(s) in the 95 kPa bag outside pouch and seal following the instructions on the bag. Place the sealed 95 kPa bag and completed test requisition(s) inside the shipping container and close securely. Label the outer shipping container with the Illinois Department of Public Health laboratory address. Complete the return address section to include the name of the person shipping the package, business name and address and a business phone number. The shipping container must include the UN 3373 Biological Substance Category B marking.
7. Prior to shipping, hold the specimens at 4-8°C and then ship the specimen (overnight) in a cooler on a cold pack.

Ship to: Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Laboratories  
825 N. Rutledge Street  
Springfield, IL 62702  
217-782-6562