

Background: All suspected Ebola cases **require** consultation with local and state public health officials. Specimens should not be forwarded to the State laboratory or the CDC without consultation with the Sonoma County Public Health team.

Specimen Requirements:

Appropriate specimens:

For adults: Two 4mL tubes of whole blood-EDTA (collect 4 tubes for duplicate testing at CDC)

For pediatric patients- 1 mL of whole blood-EDTA (pediatric sized tube) (collect 2 tubes for duplicate testing at CDC)

Specimen storage: Keep at 2-8°C

Ebola specimens are considered Category A substances: <https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/php/laboratories/specimen-packing.html>

Procedure for suspect Ebola cases (normal business hours):

1. Contact Public Health Nursing (707-565-4567) to initiate case consultation. Contact SCPHL (707-565-4711) for any questions on testing and specimen guidelines.
2. If case is identified as a suspect Ebola case, then SCPHL will send a microbiologist certified in Category A shipping to the submitter location for packaging of the specimen.
3. The SCPHL Microbiologist will also provide assistance in using SCPHL's LIMS system for test orders.
4. The specimen will be shipped via FedEx overnight to Santa Clara County PHL.

Procedure for suspect Ebola cases (after business hours):

1. Contact REDCOM (707-568-5992) to initiate case consultation.
2. If case is identified as a suspect Ebola case, then SCPHL will send a microbiologist certified in Category A shipping to the submitter location for packaging of the specimen.
 - a. Note: this will occur as soon as possible.
3. The SCPHL Microbiologist will also provide assistance in using SCPHL's LIMS system for test orders.
4. The specimen will be shipped via FedEx overnight to Santa Clara County Public Health Laboratory for testing.

Reporting:

1. As soon as results are available negative and positive results will be phoned to the ordering provider and the County Disease Control team.
2. Reports are available via SCPHL's LIMS system.

Reference documents:

CLIA 2: After Hours Contact Policy & Procedure SCPHL

<https://www.cdc.gov/viral-hemorrhagic-fevers/php/laboratories/specimen-collection.html>