



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

Phone: (805) 781-5507 | Fax: (805) 781-1023
www.sloPublicHealth.org/Lab

SPECIMEN COLLECTION & TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS

BLOOD AND SMEARS FOR PARASITE EXAMINATION

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

- Temperature: Room temperature (15–25 °C/59–77 °F)

ACCEPTABLE SPECIMEN TYPES

- EDTA blood tube

TEST ORDER OPTIONS FOR THIS TEST

- 4040: Blood smear for parasites

SPECIMEN COLLECTION

1. Collect venous blood in an EDTA tube, with the draw date and time as well as the patient's name marked on the tube.
2. Make a minimum of two (2) thick and two (2) thin smears as soon as possible or **WITHIN 4 HOURS OF COLLECTION. DO NOT FIX.**
 - Smears may be prepared from venous or capillary blood.
 - Stained smears (e.g., Giemsa) may also be submitted.

SPECIMEN STORAGE & TRANSPORT

1. Optimally, the above EDTA tube and subsequent smears should be **delivered to the Public Health Laboratory on the same day it is collected.**
2. If there is a delay in transport, refrigerate the EDTA blood and blood smear(s) and deliver as quickly as possible to the Public Health Laboratory.
3. Alternatively, the patient can contact the Public Health Department at (805) 781-5500 to make an appointment for a blood draw to avoid any transport delays.

If there are any questions regarding a specimen's acceptability, please contact the County of San Luis Obispo Public Health Laboratory (805) 781-5507.