



Collection and Transport of Suspect Ebola Specimens

IMPORTANT: Testing **MUST** be pre-approved by the Rhode Island Department of Health (HEALTH) prior to specimen collection. Providers must call 222-2577 (after hours 272-5952) to consult with the Health Department on any patient suspected of having Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

Specimen collection checklist:

	Notify your facility's clinical laboratory director or microbiology supervisor prior to specimen collection.
	Assemble all collection supplies, label tube(s) and review your facility's Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements and procedures prior to room entry.
	Wearing appropriate PPE, collect a minimum of 4ml of whole blood into a plastic lavender top (EDTA) tube. If you are using 3ml tubes, it will be necessary to draw 2 tubes. For pediatric patients (only if a volume of 4ml is not obtainable): minimum 2ml (children), minimum 1ml (infants)
	Disinfect the exterior of the tube with the approved hospital disinfectant.
	Place tube(s) into a Ziploc specimen bag at patient's bedside. Use one bag for each specimen.
	Disinfect the outside of the bag(s) with the approved hospital disinfectant.
	Place the specimen bag(s) into a durable, leak-proof secondary container (hospitals have been provided with appropriate transport containers containing Ziploc bags with absorbent pads inside the bags).
	Disinfect the outside of the secondary container with hospital disinfectant.
	Hand-carry the secondary container to the facility laboratory and physically hand it off to the laboratory. Do NOT use pneumatic tube or other automated transport system.

Transport from Hospital lab to RI HEALTH lab checklist:

NOTE: Specimen must be packaged and shipped by staff trained and certified in packaging & shipping.

	Wearing appropriate PPE, as designated by your facility, and working within a Biological Safety Cabinet, remove the Ziploc bag from the secondary container.
	Disinfect the exterior surface of the bag with appropriate disinfectant.
	Check to make certain the specimen is labeled with patient information.
	Add adsorbent material to the inside of the Ziploc bag, reseal it and place the bag into the inner shipping container. Place an icepack (enclosed within another Ziploc bag) into the inner container next to the specimen to maintain a 2-8°C temperature during shipping. Add cushioning material (paper towel or bubble wrap) if needed to secure contents within the inner container.
	Place inner shipping container into the appropriately labeled shipping box.
	Complete a RI State Health Laboratory test requisition form, put it into a separate Ziploc bag and place it in the box on top of the inner shipping container. Do NOT place the requisition form inside the inner container.
	Finish packaging the specimen per Div.6.2 Packaging and Shipping Guidelines.
	Complete a Department of Transportation (DOT) Shipper's Manifest (stays outside of the box).
	Contact the RI State Health Laboratory 24/7 to discuss and arrange shipment to the State Health Laboratory (401) 641-5135; back-up (401) 641-9451.