



## **Blood, serum and urine specimen collection instructions for samples to be analyzed for chemical agents at CDC**

### **Specimen collection**

- 1) Identification labeling of specimens – use a unique number to identify each person. Same number for each person should be used on urine, serum, and whole blood tubes. **Do not** put names of people on specimen containers shipped to CDC. Keep a list that links the specimen's number to the person's name; **do not** ship this list to CDC. CDC will report results by specimen number and chemical agent measured.
- 2) Urine – collect at least 20 mL in sterile cup and transfer to screw-capped plastic vials for shipping
- 3) Serum – start with **two 10-mL RED-TOP tubes**, separate serum, and place serum in plastic screw-capped vials for shipping (**do not** use serum separator (SST) tubes)
- 4) Whole blood - **one 5-mL or 7-mL PURPLE TOP tube** – do not open this tube after blood is collected

### **Shipping:**

- 1) Secure specimens in cardboard vial storage boxes or styrofoam-molded tube holders and enclose in large ziplock bags. Place in a styrofoam-insulated shipper, and surround tube holders with absorbent material for cushioning. **Ship refrigerated** using cool-packs or similar material, do not use dry ice.
- 2) Enclose a shipping list that contains: Listing of all specimens with a unique sample number for each specimen (do not put names of individuals on specimen containers). Name of a primary contact person and telephone numbers to reach that person **24 hours a day**. Name of a backup contact person and telephone numbers to reach that person **24 hours a day**.
- 3) **For shipping instructions, contact: Charles Buxton:** 404-545-0555/Beeper 800-401-0766, or **Elaine Gunter,** 770-488-7938/ Beeper 888-415-1898, or CDC Emergency Response at 770-488-7100 and ask to speak to **Dr. John Osterloh** in the Division of Laboratory Sciences, NCEH, CDC.

### **Questions or problems (24 hours/7 days per week), call:**

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