



**GUAM PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY GUIDELINES  
 SPECIMEN REQUIREMENTS FOR CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS  
 IN CLINICAL SAMPLES**

<b>Methodology:</b>	<b>CDC Chikungunya (CHIK) Virus Real-Time (rt) Reverse-Transcriptase Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) Assay</b>
<b>Specimen Submission Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call the DPHSS at 671-689-3942 for pre-approval, before collecting and sending specimens for suspected Chikungunya. <b>NO SPECIMEN WILL BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR CONSULTATION.</b></li> <li>• Once vetted/approved by DPHSS, complete the specimen submission form with patient's name (last name, first name), date of birth, unique Identification (ID) number/specimen ID number, date of collection, time of collection, initial of collector (Note: Test subject to CLIA regulations and these requirements).</li> <li>• Specimens for transport to the GPHL must be placed in a sealed biohazard transport bag and placed in a sealed, decontaminated primary sterile container.</li> <li>• Call the GPHL (671) 300-9082 or (671) 300-9085 to inform staff of the specimen delivery.</li> <li>• Physicians/providers will be notified of the result by the GPHL Technologist once completed.</li> </ul>
<b>For private clinics and providers:</b>	<p><b>Serum Specimen Submission Guidelines</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Minimum of 1ml serum collected in red top or in separator tube (marble or tiger-top).</li> <li>2. Fill out required form(s) <b>COMPLETELY</b>. Include the following information date of onset of illness, signs and symptoms and travel history. CHIK specimens must be collected within the first five (5) days from onset of signs and symptoms. Send forms with the specimen.</li> <li>3. Refrigerate serum at 4°C or maintain on ice for no longer than 24 hours. If storage/transport will exceed 24 hours, freeze serum at -20°C or lower.</li> <li>4. Send frozen specimens to GPHL Mondays-Fridays 8AM-430PM.</li> </ol>
<b>Specimen Required:</b>	The laboratory requires a blood sample taken during the acute period of the disease (first 5 days of symptoms). Note: If the patient makes the first visit to the physician on or after day 7 of onset of the symptoms, that sample is likely not to render a positive RT-PCR result.
<b>Specimen Collection:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once there is a clinical diagnosis of suspected Chikungunya virus, take a venous, whole blood sample.</li> <li>• Follow serum specimen collection devices manufacturer instructions for proper collection, separation and storage methods. Separated serum samples should be frozen at</li> </ul>

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	-20 °C and sent or shipped in dry ice to GPHL. If dry ice is not available, separated serum should be maintained on ice or in a refrigerator for no longer than 2 hours before it is either frozen at -20 °C or sent to GPHL.
<b>Specimen Transport, Storage and Stability</b>	Store and transport specimens in frozen state. For USAPI Laboratories, follow the PIHOA Shipping Mechanism Guidelines.
<b>Specimen Submission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that when transporting human blood, plasma or serum specimens, all applicable regulations for transport of potentially infectious biological specimens are met.</li> <li>• Transport/ship human serum or plasma samples in dry ice.</li> </ul> <p>The submitting facility must notify BT Microbiologist or alternate of GPHL at (671) 300-9080 or (671) 300-9083, prior to submitting/ shipping specimens.</p> <p><b>NOTE: It is the responsibility of the submitter to track the arrival of the specimens along with the Chikungunya Specimen form at GPHL to ensure that these specimens are received by the Laboratory staff.</b></p>
<b>Rejection Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specimen is not collected in a proper container or special handling instruction is not followed;</li> <li>• Specimen quantity is insufficient to perform the test;</li> <li>• Specimen received in a container that is leaking;</li> <li>• Specimen is not received at 4°C or packed in ice pack;</li> <li>• Frozen specimen not shipped in dry ice;</li> <li>• Blood collected with heparin or EDTA tube;</li> <li>• Unlabelled specimens;</li> <li>• Illegible/ incomplete labeling/documentation.</li> </ul>
<b>Submission Form</b>	<p>Specimen Laboratory Submission Form</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each specimen submitted must have a completed Hawaii State Laboratory Submission HSLD Form 81.3, with the patient name, patient identification number, type of specimen, date/time of collection, submitter, date of onset, travel history, date shipped/sent to GPHL, test(s) requested and other pertinent information.</li> <li>• Submission forms that are not consistent with the specimen submitted will be rejected and requesting facility will be asked to re-submit.</li> <li>• Submission forms must not be in direct contact with the specimen(s).</li> <li>• Fill out required form(s) <b>COMPLETELY</b>.</li> </ul> <p>&gt;Incomplete forms will be rejected.</p>

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<b>Result Notification:</b>	Specimens run will be batched. Laboratory reports will be forwarded to DPHSS, the submitting facility and the BCDC Administrator.  Any other request for copies of laboratory reports, apart from that stipulated above will not be accepted.
<b>Contact:</b>	Alan Mallari, Microbiologist III, GPHL (671) 300-9080 or (671) 300-9081 <a href="mailto:alanjohn.mallari@dphss.guam.gov">alanjohn.mallari@dphss.guam.gov</a>  Lea Nisay, Microbiologist II, GPHL(Alternate) (671) 300-9083 (671) 300-9098 FAX <a href="mailto:joy.villanueva@dphss.guam.gov">joy.villanueva@dphss.guam.gov</a>  Anne Marie Santos, Central Laboratory Administrator, GPHL (671) 300-9082 or (671) 300-9085 <a href="mailto:annemarie.santos@dphss.guam.gov">annemarie.santos@dphss.guam.gov</a>

Reference:

1. CDC CHIK Virus Real Time RT-PCR Assay LPRP, BRS SOP