

**CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION**  
**Division of Parasitic Diseases and Malaria**  
**Instructions for Malaria Specimen Submission**

Complete the DASH form and send along with any specimens you are submitting. Please be sure to indicate whether you are submitting specimens for assistance with malaria diagnosis **OR** if you are submitting specimens for malaria drug resistance surveillance as shown in the diagram below:

Check the identification box if you are requesting assistance with malaria diagnosis or Plasmodium species identification

<b>LABORATORY EXAMINATION(S) REQUESTED:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> ANtimicrobial Susceptibility <input type="checkbox"/> ISolation <input type="checkbox"/> Histology <input type="checkbox"/> SERology (Specific test) <input type="checkbox"/> IDentification <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		<b>CATEGORY OF AGENT SUSPECTED:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> BActerial <input type="checkbox"/> Rickettsial <input type="checkbox"/> Vtral <input type="checkbox"/> PARasitic <input type="checkbox"/> FUngal <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)			
SPECIFIC AGENT SUSPECTED:	OTHER ORGANISM(S) FOUND:	ISOLATION ATTEMPTS:	NO. OF TIMES ISOLATED:	NO. OF TIMES PASSED:	SPECIMEN SUBMITTED IS:

If you are submitting specimens for malaria drug resistance surveillance purposes only, please check the other box and write "surveillance"

**Blood smears:**

Send stained or unstained pretreatment slides (if unstained, fix thin smears in methanol as soon as possible after making the smear). Place slides in protective shipping holders to prevent breakage. If you wish the slides to be returned, please indicate that on the DASH form

**Blood for PCR or culture:**

Draw pretreatment whole blood in 3- or 5- ml EDTA or ACD blood tubes.

**Serum for serology:**

Draw 3 to 5 ml blood in a clot or serum separator tube. Centrifuge and transfer serum into a shipping vial.

**Shipping:**

1. Label all slides, blood tubes, and serum vials with the patient's name and collection date.
2. Blood tubes and serum vials must be packed in a primary shipping container with enough absorbent material to contain any leakage.
3. The primary holder of all types of specimens must be placed in a secondary protective container for shipping.
4. For whole blood specimens < 72 hours old, ship on cold packs as a "Clinical Specimen" by overnight carrier.
5. For all other specimens, ship at room temperature as a "Clinical Specimen" by overnight carrier
6. All specimens should be shipped to:

**CDC**  
**ATTN: DASH/Unit 52**  
**1600 Clifton Road**  
**Atlanta, GA 30333**

Please arrange Monday-Friday delivery only. Packages cannot be accepted on weekends or on federal holidays. If you have questions about submitting specimens, contact DPDx at [dpdx@cdc.gov](mailto:dpdx@cdc.gov) or call 404-718-4110.

Health care providers needing assistance with diagnosis or management of suspected cases of malaria should call the CDC Malaria Hotline: 770-488-7788 or 855-856-4713 toll-free (M-F, 9am-5pm, eastern time). Emergency consultation after hours, call: 770-488-7100 and request to speak with a CDC Malaria Branch clinician.