

## NDSLGL FAQ

### 1. Can urine specimens be hand carried to the lab?

Yes. Navy Drug Screening Lab, Great Lakes (NDSL GL) is located at 2500 Rogers Street, Great Lakes, IL 60088. Specimens can be dropped off from 0600 – 1730, Monday – Friday, excluding holidays.

### 2. How long does it take for results to be released?

The results for negative specimens are typically released within 3 business days and positive results are typically released within five business days from when they are accessioned at the laboratory. There are many factors that can impact the release time, including the workload at the laboratory and delivery times.

### 3. Is every specimen tested?

Yes, unless there is not sufficient urine to test or the label is so damaged that the DoDID is unreadable. The laboratory tests approximately 1.2 million specimens per year.

### 4. How are urine specimens tested?

Every package that arrives at NDSL GL is inspected for the appropriate markings and damage before it is opened. After each package is opened, a technician signs notes if there are any discrepancies or inaccuracies, they are noted to be reported to the command after the completion of testing.

A small sample from each specimen is then poured into individual test tubes and are tested through an immunoassay – based analyzer. The analyzer operated on the same principal of a Covid or home pregnancy test. This test separates those that are definitely negative from those that might be positive. Those specimens that screen for no presence of drugs or metabolites are discarded and are reported as negative through the iFTDTL portal.

For those specimens that are screened as positive, a second sample is poured into a new test where the drug or drug metabolite detected in the initial screen will be analyzed chromatographic mass spectral instrumentation, the recognized gold standard in the field of toxicology. These instruments detect both the specific drug molecule of interest and the amount of that drug in the service member's urine. Should the drug be detected above the cutoff value, a positive report will be sent to the submitting Command through the iFTDTL portal.

### 5. I have a question about a supplement that I take and if it contains illicit drugs. Who should I contact?

Most supplements purchased in the USA do not, but this is not guaranteed. For more information specific to what you are taking, contact one of the experts at the laboratory using the information on this site.