



The Review

NBIMC News, Updates, & Announcements

DECEMBER 2024

News & Updates

DOD Serum Repository

Announcements

Shipping Label Request

Specimen Labeling

Friday Shipments to CDD

Civilian Employee of the Quarter

CDD Holiday Schedule



NBIMC Staff Visit DODSR

Department of Defense Serum Repository

Written By: Hodan Oglay, MS, MLS

NBIMC is located on the NSA Bethesda campus in Bldg. 17B.

Hours: 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: 301-295-6590

NBIMC Website:

<https://www.med.navy.mil/Navy-and-Marine-Corps-Force-Health-Protection-Command/Field-Activities/Navy-Bloodborne-Infection-Management-Center/>

NBIMC email:

dha.bethesda.wrmmmc.mbx.nbimc@health.mil

Department Head

Phone: 301-295-6590
Bldg. 17B, 3rd floor, Suite 3G.

On November 21st the Navy Bloodborne Infectious Management Center (NBIMC) toured the Department of Defense Serum Repository in Silver Spring, Maryland. The Department of Defense Serum Repository (DODSR) was established in 1989 as the Army/Navy Serum Repository for storing serum that remained following mandatory HIV testing within the active and reserve components of the Army, Navy, and Marines. Since that time, the mission of the DODSR has expanded to include the collection and storage of operational deployment specimens as well as Air Force specimens. During the visit, NBIMC observed how DODSR receives, stores, and retains HIV specimens and relevant HIV testing data. The DODSR's operations significantly contribute to the availability of serial serologic specimens as well as relevant demographic, occupational, and medical information within the databases. Specimens contained in the DODSR are available to researchers and other investigators within the DOD for the purposes of conducting militarily relevant investigations. Thirty years improvements in data collection, automation, and transmission have allowed for the creation of robust longitudinal health surveillance records on military populations which contributed to advances in military medicine over the past thirty years.

Announcements

AFTIS: Military Shipping Label Request Site

The Center for Disease Detection (CDD) has developed a proprietary software system (AFTIS) which is utilized for all CDD testing services.



Through AFTIS, client service representatives have access to patient demographic information, supply ordering information, test results, and other data necessary for responding to client help desk calls. The application simplifies specimen shipment and tracking by allowing clients to login to the relevant client site, select shipping options, enter/update contact information, enter number of packages and specimens, generate shipping labels, and track shipment status. The application's inventory functions collect information and automatically generates both supply invoices and re-supply orders, based on client-specified minimum and maximum quantities. The software can interface with electronic medical records systems which use Health Level Seven International (HL7) messaging and allows for automation of all steps in the testing process, including test request, shipping, resulting, and

statistical reporting. All sites are encouraged to review the "Navy Processing Instructions" tutorial on the CDD AFTIS website under the "Request Shipping Labels".

This provides instructions on handling, labeling, and shipping samples to CDD. AFTIS is accessible to all Navy Submitting sites, go to

<https://cddmedical.labcorp.com/resources/provider-tools>.

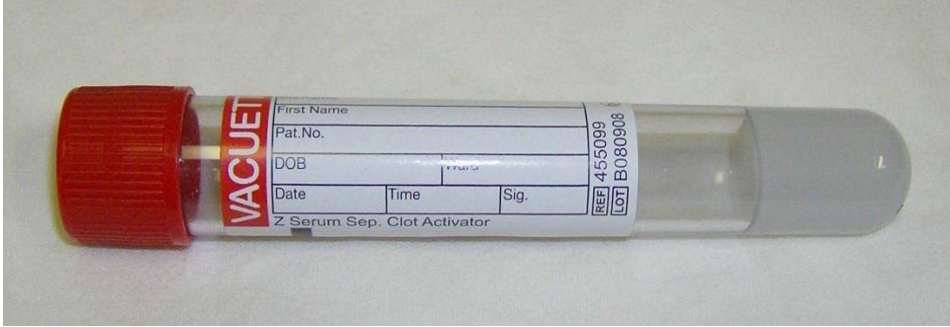
Specimen Labeling, Shipping, and Ordering

Specimens must be labeled and shipped according to the testing lab's policy and procedures. The guidelines for specimen labeling and shipping are available on the NBIMC website at this link [Testing Contractor Submission Guidelines](#). **Specimens labeled incorrectly, illegible barcode labels wrinkled, smudged, or blank, will be rejected by the testing lab (see image of incorrect/blank barcodes below).**



Specimen orders must be entered before the shipment of specimens. Sites are responsible for ensuring the orders are placed, specimens are labeled properly with the correct test order, and review the shipping manifest. **The testing lab cannot re-label a specimen or place test orders.** If a site expects shipping delays, then the collected samples need to be centrifuged and the serum transferred into a screw cap vial(supplied). Please see example figure below (image 2).

Image 2 (16 x 100 Plastic Serum Separator Tube)



Action Required

Required Action – Friday samples need to be shipped with air bills printed on Friday.

All Friday shipments should be sent only with air bills printed on Fridays. CDD's system automatically provides Saturday Delivery air bills.

If samples shipped on a Friday are sent using air bills that were printed between Monday and Thursday, the package(s) will be delivered on Monday. The air bills that are printed between Monday and Thursday are **not** Saturday delivery air bills.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does "Not spun correctly" mean?

Proper blood collection and timely processing are critical pre-analytical steps required for the integrity of laboratory results. The remark "**not spun correctly**" means the serum is not completely separated from the red blood cells. This is usually indicated by a slant in the serum separator gel or when the specimen is inverted red cells cross the serum separator gel barrier. Often this is caused

by incorrect centrifuge Round Per Minute (RPM), or incorrect time specimens spun in the centrifuge. As a rule, generally centrifuge specimens for 15 minutes at 3400 rpm unless specified otherwise. Additionally, specimens should sit for a minimum of 30 minutes prior to spinning in the centrifuge. Testing must be done on completely separated serum to avoid erroneous results and sample rejection.

Image Info VIRIN: 230829-D-ZZ999-1001



CDD Holiday Schedule

All sites should take note of CDD's Holiday operating hours below:

Wednesday, December 25 –
Christmas Day – CLOSED

Wednesday, January 1,
2025 – New Year's Day –
CLOSED



Civilian Employee of the Quarter

Congratulations to Mrs. Ai Marrero for her selection as Civilian Employee of the Quarter, Category Admin II, Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2024, Navy and Marine Corps Force Health Protection Command (NMCFHPC), Portsmouth, Virginia.

Mrs. Marrero demonstrated exceptional leadership and initiative throughout the Fourth Quarter. During this period, she expertly organized and executed the change of charge ceremony for the Navy Bloodborne and Infection Management Center (NBIMC) and the consecutive retirement ceremony of the outgoing officer in charge. Mrs. Marrero's hard work in leading these initiatives through resilience and commitment was remarkable.