

Sample Collection

In most infections, 10-14 days are required for the development of demonstrable antibodies. If a blood sample is drawn during the acute phase of a disease, a second sample should be drawn 10-14 days later. Paired sera should be tested together to maximize the diagnostic value of test results.

Send serum only, not whole blood or clots and allow at least 0.5ml serum per test.

- a. Always use dry needles, containers, and tubes.
- b. Do not freeze blood before collecting serum.
- c. Do not force blood through needles.
- d. Do not use outdated corvac or SST tubes.

Do not submit blood samples in syringes.

Collect blood samples in clean sterile tubes (Vacutainer or SST tubes). Fill tubes 3/4 full and allow to stand at room temperature for a few hours to permit a solid clot to form and retract. The tubes should be spun and the serum be removed and placed in a clean tube and refrigerated. Screw capped tubes are preferable to snap cap tubes or tubes with rubber stoppers. Do not freeze whole blood or samples with the clot remaining. It is not necessary to remove the serum from the SST tubes prior to shipping.

Number the tubes consecutively, matching the actual tube number with the tube number written on the serology submission form. Use permanent marker to identify tubes. Grease pencil marks are easily rubbed off, and labels fall off during the heating process necessary for some tests.

Place the tubes in brucellosis boxes in numerical order.