



## Dengue Fever and Chikungunya Fever – Clinical Sample Submission Guidelines

When dengue or chikungunya is suspected in a patient, a sample should be promptly submitted to either the Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Public Health Laboratories (BPHL) or a commercial laboratory. The following categories will help you determine which laboratory is appropriate:

### **BPHL**

- (1) Acute sample ( $\leq 8$  days post onset)
  - Submit to BPHL-Tampa
- (2) Only available sample is convalescent ( $\geq 8$  days post onset) **without travel** to endemic country (suspect local transmission)
  - Submit to BPHL-Tampa or BPHL-Jacksonville

### **Commercial Laboratory**

- (3) Only available sample is convalescent ( $\geq 8$  days post onset) **with travel** to endemic country

To submit a sample to the DOH BPHL, first contact the local county health department for approval to send the sample. Collect a red top or tiger top tube and follow standard packaging and shipping guidelines for diagnostic specimens. If the sample is acute (collected five or fewer days post onset), the sera should be shipped frozen on dry ice to the address below: Note: although this is best for detecting virus, viral RNA may still be detectable in freshly collected acute serum that is immediately sent overnight to the laboratory in a cooler with frozen gel ice.

DOH BPHL Tampa-Virology  
3602 Spectrum Boulevard  
Tampa, FL 33612  
Phone: (813) 233-2203  
Fax: (813) 974-3425

DOH BPHL Jacksonville-Virology  
1217 Pearl Street  
Jacksonville, FL 32202  
Phone: (904) 791-1540  
Fax: (904) 791-1567

A completed Florida DOH Clinical Laboratory Submission Form DH 1847 should accompany all specimens: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/public-health-laboratories/forms-publications/\\_documents/DH1847--rev-5-13.pdf](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/public-health-laboratories/forms-publications/_documents/DH1847--rev-5-13.pdf).

The name of the contact at the County Health Department who approved sample submission to BPHL should be included on the submission form. For acute samples, indicate Arbovirus PCR and Arbovirus Antibody. For convalescent samples, indicate only Arbovirus Antibody. In both cases, the following steps should be completed:

- Write **dengue and chikungunya** in the comments section on the bottom of the form
- Fill in date of onset and travel in the mandatory arbovirus section
- Include date of specimen collection at the top of the form
- Fill in Health Care Provider Information box with the name, address, and contact phone of the person to whose attention the final laboratory report is to be sent

Prior to requesting that a commercial lab forward a specimen to BPHL please consult with the Arbovirus Surveillance Coordinator. The DOH Clinical Laboratory Submission Form DH1847 should be filled out in full by the County Health Department and faxed to BPHL with a note stating from which commercial laboratory the specimen has been requested. If commercial laboratory results are already available, fax them along with the submission form.