



March 2, 2018

Dear OSPHL Clients,

On January 10, 2018, the OSPHL notified our clients that blood specimens would no longer be processed by OSPHL staff members on Saturdays. Since that time, we have received requests to clarify which specimens qualify for serum being removed from the clot.

This letter only applies to the option to remove serum from the clot prior to transport. Please refer to the original letter (attached) for all options available to your facility.

The following are options for removing serum from the clot:

1. Remove serum from the clot and aliquot the serum into a separate transport tube; submit serum only.
2. Use a SST™ tube, in which a gel layer is formed after centrifugation, separating the serum from the clot.

If the gel layer is compromised during transport to the OSPHL, causing-remixing of the specimen, the specimen cannot be used for testing.

The manufacturer of SST™ tubes, Becton-Dickinson (BD), does not recommend SST™ tubes with *only* Clot Activator/Polymer Gel for transport after serum is separated by centrifugation due to possible sample remixing. For transport, BD sells SST™ Transport Tubes, which contain *double amount of polymer gel* and are recommended by the manufacturer to keep serum separated during transport.

The OSPHL does not provide serum transport or SST™ tubes at this time. Red top tubes are sufficient for the vast majority of specimens and will continue to be provided in specimen collection kits. Instructions for separating serum from the clot may be available from the manufacturer of specimen tubes.

Please contact Sarah Humphrey, the OSPHL Client Services Coordinator, with questions at sarah.m.humphrey@state.or.us or 503-693-4124.

Sincerely,

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