

# Collection Tube Guide

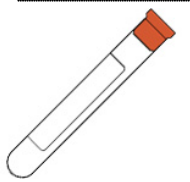
DSHS/South Texas Laboratory

1301 S. Rangerville Road

Harlingen, Texas 78552

(956) 364-8746

**NOTE:** Please check expiration dates on tubes; expired tubes will be rejected.

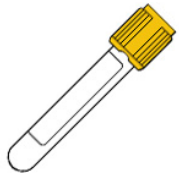


Red Top

ADDITIVE: None

MODE OF ACTION: Blood clots - serum is separated by centrifugation

USES: Once Serum is separated by centrifugation, pipet serum to Transport Tube. Red Top Tube can be used for serum transport tube ONLY.



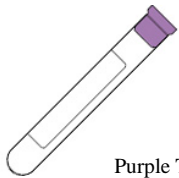
Gold Top

ADDITIVE: Serum Separating Tube (SST) with clot activator

MODE OF ACTION: Forms clot quickly and separates the serum with SST gel at the bottom of the tube upon centrifugation.  
Centrifuge specimen 10 to 15 minutes or longer if not complete separation achieved (20-25 min)

USES: TB PANEL, COMPREHENSIVE METABOLIC PANEL, BASIC METABOLIC PANEL, HEPATIC (LIVER) FUNCTION PANEL. LIPID PANEL. GLUCOSE

Serum centrifuged within 2 hours for any Panel containing Glucose and Potassium is CRITICAL. (Comp and Basic Panels Glucose and Potassium)



Purple Top

ADDITIVE: EDTA Liquid

MODE OF ACTION: Forms calcium salts to remove calcium  
Invert Specimen 10 times to prevent clotting  
Note: Specimens maybe rejected if not received by laboratory Within 48 hours of collection.

If a CBC is the only test ordered, please draw a Gold tube and discard the gold tube.

USES: CBC, MANUAL DIFFERENTIAL, PERIPHERAL SMEAR REVIEW, HEMOGLOBIN A1C

QFT-Plus Tubes

[This test Not Performed at STL, please contact Austin Laboratory for more information](#)

Panels: Basic Metabolic Panel  
Comprehensive Metabolic Panel  
Hepatic (Liver) Function Panel  
Lipid Panel  
TB Panel  
GLUCOSE } 2 – 4 ml. Serum OR Serum Separating Tube

CBC  
Peripheral Smear Review  
Hemoglobin A1c } 3 ml Whole Blood