Specimen Collection and Submission Guidance for

Andes Virus and Sin Nombre Hantavirus Serum Specimens

Submitting Serum Specimens for Detection of Hantavirus IgG & IgM Antibodies

Hantavirus Serum Specimen Collection and Storage

Report suspected Hantavirus cases within one week.
Reporting contacts by county/PHR available here.

Required Specimen: Serum

Required Volume: 500 µL

Required Storage and Shipping Temperatures:

- **Store** and **ship cold** at 2°C–8°C if specimen will arrive at the Laboratory **within 7 days** of collection.
- **Store** and **ship frozen** at -20°C or colder if specimen will arrive at Laboratory **more than 7 days** after collection.

Ensure specimen collection kits are not expired!

Cotton rats are known hantavirus carriers. (CDC/ James Gathany, 2005)

Specimen Shipping and Labeling Requirements

Ensure specimen tubes have the required patient identifiers.

Ship in accordance with Category B Biological Substances regulations.

- **Ship overnight** in insulated containers.
- **Pack** cold specimens with several ice packs; one is not enough.
- **Pack** frozen specimens with enough dry ice to keep them frozen for up to 48 hours.

Ensure containers are securely closed to prevent leaks.

- **Secure** lids by wrapping them in paraffin film (e.g., Parafilm).
- **Pack with enough absorbent material** in secondary container to soak up the contents of the primary container.

- **Do not ship for weekend or holiday delivery.**
- **Specimens received out of temperature range will be rejected.**
- **Do not place specimen labels over paraffin film; they will fall off.**

Specimen Collection and Submission Guidance for

Hantavirus Serum Specimens for Antibody Detection

All Facilities Must Have a DSHS Submitter Account to Submit Specimens

Label Specimen With Unique Identifiers

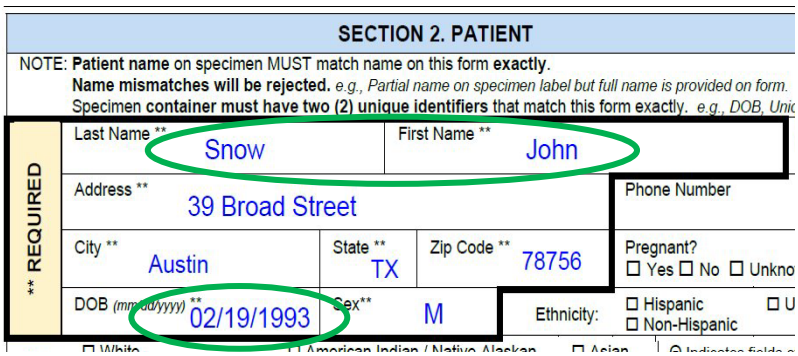
Every specimen must have at least **two unique patient identifiers** on its label.

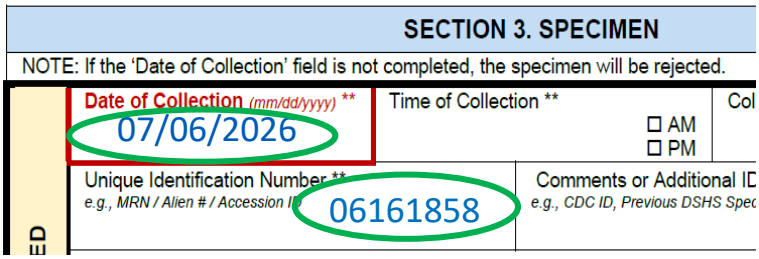
1 **Snow, John**
2 **DOB: 02/19/1993**
3 **06161858**

Three patient identifiers are preferred.

Provide Patient Identifiers in Sections 2 and 3 of Form G-2A

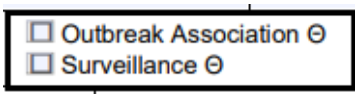
Patient identifiers on specimen label and G-2A submission form **must match**.
Date of Collection must be provided in Section 3.





Identify Reason for Submission in Section 2

Check "Outbreak" or "Surveillance".



Select Specimen Type in Section 3

Check "Serum."

Select Test Type in Section 4

Check "Hantavirus IgM & IgG".

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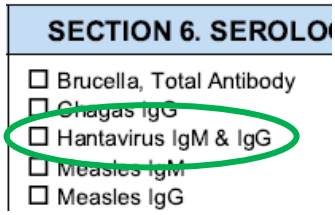
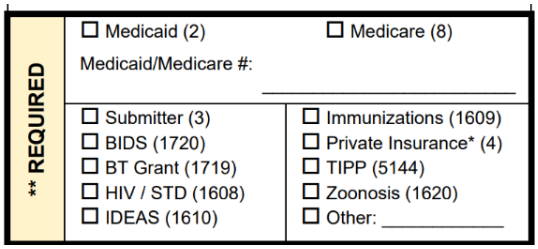


Select Payor in Section 6

Check the appropriate Payor.
Do not leave empty!



Questions About . . .

Specimen Collection/Suitability: 512-776-7657 or 512-776-7760
Specimen Shipping: 512-776-7598
Hantavirus Case Reporting: Disease Reporting Contacts
Submitter Accounts, Submission Forms, or Result Reports: 512-776-7578 or LabInfo@dshs.texas.gov