



The BOL offers microscopic confirmation and speciation of Malaria and Babesia, using electronic transmission of images to the CDC's parasitology group. CDC is also interested in Malaria specimens for surveillance testing.

1. Complete the PA Department of Health Specimen Submission Form.
<https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Documents/Laboratories/BOL%20Micro%20Specimen%20Submission%20Form.pdf>
 - a. Patient's name, date of birth, and sex (add information to specimen and slides too)
 - b. Address and county of residence
 - c. Specimen collection date
 2. In the "Laboratory test Requested" field fill in either "Identification" or "Surveillance only."
 3. Reports are **not** issued for Surveillance-only testing. Annual malaria data is published in the MMWR (CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report).
 4. Complete the CDC 50.34 with the following required information:
 - a. Clinical diagnosis and any pertinent lab results
 - b. Travel history
 - c. Symptoms and treatment therapies
 - d. Any past diagnosis of malaria
 5. CDC 50.34 form can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/laboratory/specimen-submission/form.html>
 6. Send 3-5 mL whole blood in a lavender top tube (EDTA preservative).
 7. Send Giemsa blood-stained slides that are positive for parasites. Slides **must** be stained before sending to BOL.
 8. Properly package the sample and paperwork.
 9. **Ship as a category B agent with a cold pack(s).** Samples **must** be received at the BOL between **2-8°C** or specimen identification may not be able to be confirmed.
 10. Ship samples Monday through Thursday.
- Handling and storage: Blood specimens must be refrigerated and tested within 21 days of collection.
 - Other parasitology services are available through the CDC, refer to <https://www.cdc.gov/dpdx/index.html>
 - Digital Images and a completed CDC 50.34 can be emailed directly to the CGH DPDM DPDx Web Inquiries (CDC) nciddpddpdx@cdc.gov

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