



Poultry Health Services Ltd.

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Blood Sampling

Obtain 20 Samples per Flock/House:

The brachial vein (wing vein) is usually the most convenient site to obtain blood samples from mature chickens. Chickens can also be sent live to the lab for blood collection.

- Obtain at least 2 ml of blood from each bird.
- Do not fill more than half of the capacity of the tube.
- After the collection, lay the tube down so that it is horizontal or nearly so. Leave it until the blood clots.
- After the clot is firm, the vial may be returned to a vertical position. Some samples may require a longer amount of time to clot. **A fresh blood sample should never be refrigerated immediately after collection**, as this will hinder the clotting process.
- Keep the tube with the blood sample at room temperature for the next few hours or in the incubator at 37⁰ C if possible. You may also leave the tubes at room temperature over night.

Ship blood to the lab in a cooler at 4⁰C. The blood must reach the lab within 24-36 hours after the collection. If blood cannot reach the lab in that time frame, separate the serum (the clear fluid) and send the serum to the lab (chilled or frozen). These samples will be appropriate for testing samples for specific antibodies and/or antigens.

1. Hold the bird in your non-dominant hand.



2. Remove feathers to view the vein .



3. Place the tube into the holder; **Do NOT** push the tube onto the needle.



4. Put the needle under the skin first, then push the tube onto the needle.



5. Puncture the vein with the needle.



6. Blood will flow into the tube. If it stops, you may need to rotate the needle to free it from the edge of the vein.



7. Place all the tubes in horizontal positions. Keep them at room temperature, and the serum (yellow liquid) will separate.



8. You may separate the serum into a small tube, and send it to the lab or keep it frozen.

