



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
WASSERMANN LABORATORY

240 LONGWOOD AVENUE, BUILDING D, ROOM 103

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In charge of Wassermann Laboratory

BOSTON, June 1, 1915.

The State Department of Health has established a Wassermann Laboratory which offers free service to state institutions, local Boards of Health and, under certain conditions, to private physicians when application is made through their district health officer. The Laboratory requires that the label identifying the specimen and the blank accompanying the report be properly filled out in legible writing. Otherwise examinations will not be made.

The following directions are given to insure reliable results:

1. Use only glassware as furnished by this Laboratory in its original condition. Mailing cases and the carbolic acid solution described below may be had upon application..

2. At least five cubic centimetres of blood, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ cubic centimetres of serum, and 3 cubic centimetres of spinal fluid are required.

3. The specimens of spinal fluid or blood should be placed in a refrigerator within two hours after collection, and brought to the Laboratory on the same day by *messenger*. The time of collection should be so arranged that specimens reach the Laboratory not later than 3 o'clock on week days except Saturday. No tests will be begun on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays. Ordinarily the report will be ready within 24 hours after the specimens are received provided the directions are followed and no holiday intervenes.

4. Where *no messenger* is available the following is strongly recommended: Withdraw the serum which has separated from its clot (centrifuging to remove corpuscles if cloudy) and transfer to another tube which the Laboratory will furnish on special request. The transfer is most easily made by means of an ordinary medicine dropper which should be sterilized by boiling in clean tap water and which should be completely washed out at least three times with sterile .85% salt solution before withdrawing the serum from any specimen of blood. To the separate specimens of serum thus obtained, add 2 drops of a 2% carbolic acid solution in normal salt to approximately each two cubic centimetres of the serum. The separation of the serum may be facilitated by loosening the clot from the sides of the tube containing the blood with an ordinary bacteriologic platinum loop, and placing the tube in an incubator at 37 degrees Centigrade for 30 to 40 minutes, but no longer than one hour. Spinal fluids are to be treated with two drops of the above described carbolic solution to approximately each 3 cubic centimetres of fluid. The specimens should be sent immediately to the Laboratory by parcels post, special delivery, so that they will reach us not later than Friday of a given week for the reason above noted.

For further information address

WASSERMANN LABORATORY.