



Medical Entomology Laboratory Identification Service

Sample transport and submission guidelines

Medical Entomology Laboratory Identification Service provides invertebrate identification and advice to general practitioners, laboratories, licenced pest management technicians or local government environmental health representatives on organisms (e.g. mosquitoes, lice, fleas, bedbugs, ticks and mites) that present a risk to public health.

Referring practitioners are strongly encouraged to review any samples provided to them by a patient/client, to ensure they are eligible for submission.

The following samples **will** be accepted:

- Samples submitted directly by a referring General Practitioner, laboratory, licenced pest management technician or local government environmental health representative.
- Samples containing invertebrate organisms that present a risk (or potential risk) to public health (e.g. mosquitoes, lice, fleas, bedbugs, ticks and mites).

The following samples **will not** be accepted:

- Samples containing, or suspected to contain, blood or body fluids.
- Samples submitted directly by patients.
- Samples that have not been appropriately stored/packaged, as per the below guidelines, prior to submission.
- Worms or worm-like specimens.
- Other materials or organisms that do not present a risk to public health.

Specimen preparation

1. Ensure the specimen is eligible for submission through this service.
2. Complete the [Medical entomology laboratory identification request form](#) (ID request form).

Specimen preparation cont.

- Place specimen/s into an airtight plastic vial or container with a screw top lid (e.g. urine Jar). To prevent damage during transport, store according to the following directions:

- Place a piece of soft tissue to the bottom of the vial. Create a well space by pushing the tissue down.
- Carefully place the specimen into the well space.
- Fold the tissue edges gently over the specimen and screw the lid back on.



- Clearly label the vial/collection container with the following information:

- Patient's full name
- Date of birth
- Date the sample was collected.

- Place the container into a sealable plastic bag (Ziploc or biohazard bag).

- Seal the bag.

- Place the bag with the sample container into a second sealable bag.

- Place the ID request form into the outer bag (the second bag), ensuring it is not in direct contact with the sample container.

- Seal the second bag.

- Place sample bag into a foam esky, seal the esky with tape and keep in the fridge until a courier can be organised to transfer the sample to Medical Entomology.

- Please call Medical Entomology on (08) 9285 5500 to advise of ID request and to obtain postal address for courier, noting samples are not accepted directly from patients.**



Double bag the sample in sealable bags. Place ID request form in outer bag, where it is not in contact with the sample.