Specimen Required: 

**Collect**: Serum Separator Tube (SST).  
**Specimen Preparation**: Allow specimen to clot completely at room temperature. Separate from cells ASAP or within 2 hours of collection. Transfer 1 mL serum to an ARUP Standard Transport Tube. (Min: 0.5 mL) Parallel testing is preferred and convalescent specimens must be received within 30 days from receipt of the acute specimens.  
**Storage/Transport Temperature**: Refrigerated.  
**Remarks**: Label specimens plainly as "acute" or "convalescent."  
**Unacceptable Conditions**: Contaminated, heat-inactivated, or grossly hemolyzed specimens.  
**Stability (collection to initiation of testing)**: After separation from cells: Ambient: 48 hours; Refrigerated: 2 weeks; Frozen: 1 year (Avoid repeated freeze/thaw cycles)