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 2 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: Plasma or urine. Contaminated, hemolyzed, or heat-inactivated 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)