









Collection Tube Color	Tube Name	Sample Type	Examples of Laboratory Use*	Special Instructions
	Red/Black Marble Gold Red/Gray Marble Serum Separator Tube (SST) Gel Tube	Serum	Chemistry Serology (HIV, Hepatitis, antibody testing)	Invert five times. Allow the sample to clot for 20 minutes in an upright position. Centrifuge for 10 minutes then transfer the serum to a properly labeled plastic pour-off tube.
	Red Red Top Plain (No Additive)	Serum	Hepatitis, HIV, Blood Drug Screens, Therapeutic Drug Monitoring	Allow the sample to clot for 20 minutes in an upright position. Centrifuge for 10 minutes and transfer the serum to a properly labeled pour-off tube.
	Lavender Purple Lavender Top (K3 EDTA)	Whole Blood (EDTA)	Hematology	Immediately mix at least 10 times by gentle inversion. Do not use for blood heavy metals (e.g., lead), or ZPP.
	Royal Blue w/ Green Label Royal Blue Top (Sodium Heparin Tube)	Whole Blood (Sodium Heparin)	Blood Heavy Metals (e.g., Arsenic, Lead, Mercury, Cadmium, Chromium, Zinc)	Immediately mix at least 10 times by gentle inversion. Do not centrifuge.

Collection Tube Color	Tube Name	Sample Type	Examples of Laboratory Use*	Special Instructions
 Royal Blue w/ Purple Label	Royal Blue Top (EDTA)	Whole Blood (Sodium Heparin)	Blood Heavy Metals NOT to be used for Arsenic	Immediately mix at least 10 times by gentle inversion. Do not centrifuge.
 Gray	Gray Top (Sodium Flouride/Potassium Oxalate)	Whole Blood	Blood Alcohol and Plasma Glucose (e.g., Fasting and 2 Hour)	Immediately mix at least 10 times by gentle inversion. Do not centrifuge.
 Light Blue	Light Blue Top (Sodium Citrate)	Plasma (Citrate)	Coagulation (e.g., PT and PTT)	COAGULATION NOTE Process immediately. Mix at least 10 times by gentle inversion. Centrifuge for a minimum of 15 minutes then transfer the plasma to a properly labeled plastic pour-off tube. Freeze immediately. Assure that the sample arrives frozen and within 24 hours.
 Yellow	Yellow Top (ACD)	Whole Blood or Plasma	DNA HLA	See manual for individual test use.

** See Laboratory Manual for specific test requirements.*

For additional testing assistance, please call:
CRL Client Support Specialists at 800-445-6917 Ext. 8815