

## Laboratory Services

### **Health and Safety Precautions**

Specimens must be handled in a safe manner and according to applicable legal requirements or guidance. Information on safety specimen handling may be obtained from the U.S. Occupational and Health Administration (OSHA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In handling human specimens the goal is to protect healthcare workers, ancillary staff, and the general public from exposure to blood and to other potentially infectious body fluids. Besides following other specimen preparation procedures included in this directory, you should ensure that there is no leakage from or visible contamination outside the specimen container and that there are no needles or other sharps in the package that could cause injury or pathogenic exposure to anyone handling or opening the packaging and inner containers. We reserve the right to reject any transports that pose a safety hazard to our employees.

### **Needles, Sharps or Medical Waste**

Do not send any needles or other breakable medical equipment. Sending medical waste as a diagnostic specimen violates the law and may create a health hazard. Properly discard used needles or other sharps prior to transport. For tests requiring they syringes, the needle must be removed from the syringe and discarded and capped before sending to the laboratory.