

## **Specimen Integrity:**

The integrity of laboratory specimens and the test results depends upon proper patient preparation, specimen collection, labeling, handling, storage and transport. To assist our customers in these aspects, Northern Plains Laboratory (NPL) hosts an online website at [www.northernplainslab.com](http://www.northernplainslab.com). The website contains a test catalog which provides specific information on container type, volume, and special handling requirements for each test performed at the NPL production center and the most common tests out-sourced to our reference laboratory. In addition, the NPL call center can be reached at 701-530-5700 with any questions.

Follow all exposure control/Blood Borne Pathogen guidelines adopted by your facility when collecting and handling laboratory specimens.

The time taken for delivery of sample to NPL varies by each site and by courier. Please utilize the information in the test catalog to assure the sample will arrive without exceeding the specified time limits. In some cases, this requires anticipating longer time frames to arrive at NPL, such as during heavy postal service holidays.