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# Oral Fluid Laboratory Drug Testing

## Frequently asked questions

### How do I know the oral fluid drug testing solution is right for my agency?

Oral fluid drug testing is easily used in a variety of testing arenas: Federal & State Corrections, Clinics & Hospitals, Methadone Clinics, Federal, State & County Probation, Counseling Centers, Physician Offices, Federal Halfway Houses, Drug Courts, Behavioral Health, Jails & Detention Centers, Rehabilitation & Treatment, Child & Family Services, Mental Health and Schools & Universities.

### Why should I implement the oral fluid drug testing solution at my facility?

Not only does oral fluid testing save your agency time and money in collection fees, it offers the convenience of testing for drugs of abuse anywhere, at any time.

### What are the testing and confirmation methodologies?

Specimens collected with the oral fluid collection device are sent to RTL for screening by enzyme immunoassay (EIA) or enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Positive screens, other than methadone, are confirmed by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (GC/MS) or by liquid chromatography/tandem mass spectrometry (LC/MS/MS). The analytical methods used by RTL for the detection of drugs of abuse are scientifically accepted and approved by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

### What are the oral fluid drug detection times?

The drug detection times in oral fluid closely parallel those in blood. In general, Amphetamines, Barbiturates, Benzodiazepines, Opiates, Cocaine/Benzoyllecgonine, Methadone, and PCP can be detected for up to 48 hours following use. Parent THC (marijuana) can be detected in oral fluid for up to 24 hours or longer<sup>1</sup>.

### I suspect that my donor just used a substance of abuse, how long should I wait before collecting the specimen?

Depending on the drug and dosage, drugs may be detected in oral fluid in as little as a few minutes or up to approximately 2 hours from the time of use.

### Why are the drug levels in oral fluids lower than those in urine?

Oral fluid levels largely correlate with the amount of drug in the blood (dependent on the saliva/plasma ratio for each drug). Higher drug and drug metabolite levels are found in urine because they are concentrated by the kidneys during the excretion process.

### How do I collect an oral fluid specimen?

Instructions for use are included with your first order of oral fluid collection devices. Please read these instructions carefully. RTL offers telephonic training. If you have questions, please call 800-255-2159.

### Can I ship my oral fluid specimens with my urine specimens?

RTL will accept both oral fluid and urine specimens in the same lab pack when sending five or more specimens (e.g. three oral fluid specimens and two urine specimens). The specimens cannot, however, be mixed in the postage-paid mailer boxes due to U.S. Postal Service regulations.

*\*\*It is important that the test request form is included with the oral fluid specimen. The specimen cannot be processed without the information supplied on the test request form.*

### How long does RTL store the oral fluid specimen?

RTL stores positive oral fluid specimens for six (6) months in frozen storage. Negative specimens are kept for 48 hours.

### How will RTL report the oral fluid results?

RTL offers reporting for the oral fluid drug testing solution via internet, U.S. mail or facsimile. Please indicate your preferred method at the time of account set-up.

### What is the shelf life for the oral fluid collection device?

The oral fluid collection device has a minimum shelf life of 12 months.

### Does OSHA classify oral fluid as hazardous?

OSHA considers oral fluid collections non-hazardous as long as the specimen is not tinged with blood.

### Who do I call to re-order oral fluid collection devices?

To reorder supplies, please call us toll free at 800-255-2159.

1. Average detection time. Chronic exposure may lead to longer detection times.



Laboratory: 800-255-2159 // Screening Devices: 877-444-0049 // Fax: 707-577-8102  
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