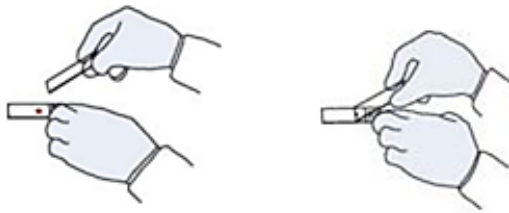


## Thick and Thin Blood Smear Preparation

### Thin Film

1. Prepare and send a minimum of 4 thin films. Slide should be prepared within 1 hour of collection.
2. Place a small drop of blood on a clean slide, near to but not touching the frosted edge of the slide.
3. Holding a clean spreader slide at a 45° angle, bring it backwards until it just meets the drop of blood on the specimen slide.
4. Allow the blood to spread the entire width of the spreader slide.
5. Continuing to hold the spreader slide at a 45 angle, push the slide forward rapidly and smoothly.



### Thick Film

6. Prepare and send a minimum of 4 thick films. Slides should be prepared within one hour of collection.
7. Place a small drop of blood (approximately twice the volume as used for a thin smear) onto the center of a clean slide.
8. Using a second clean slide, spread the drop of blood in a circular motion until it is approximately the size of a nickel.
  - a. Pressure should be applied to the applicator slide so that small etches are made on the specimen slide. The etches will help the specimen adhere to the slide during lysis and staining.
  - b. Do not make the slides too thick or the blood will flake off of the slide. You should be able to read newsprint through the slide.



### Packaging

9. Label specimens on frosted end of slide with 2 unique patient identifiers.
10. Allow all slides to dry completely before placing in slide mailers for shipping.

