

TESTING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Can I order a test directly from you or do I need to have a practitioner order it for me?

We strongly suggest that you work with a practitioner to complete your testing. However, some states in the U.S. allow us to ship test kits, that require a blood draw, directly to you. These states are called Direct Access Testing (DAT) states.

DAT states include: Alaska, Colorado, Delaware, District of Columbia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

If you live in a DAT state and would like to purchase one of our test kits that require a blood draw, Blood Metals Panel and Mercury Tri-Test[®], please go to our website to place your order. We do not take these orders over the phone.

If you do not live in a DAT state and would like to utilize our testing that requires blood draws, and detoxification protocols, we recommend working with a certified practitioner.

If you reside in the state of New York*: Due to the State of New York Department of Health restrictions, we cannot analyze samples taken in the state of New York. We recommend you make arrangements with a practitioner in a surrounding state and test with them.

*Our lab will not accept any samples taken in the State of New York.

How do I find a practitioner in my area that understands your metals testing?

If you are not working with a practitioner, please check our Quicksilver Scientific Institute Certified Practitioners list <https://www.quicksilverscientific.com/preferred-practitioners>. This is not an exclusive list so if you do not find one, please contact Customer Experience at support@quicksilverscientific.com. Or, ask your practitioner to contact us to determine if they can open an account and order the tests for you.



How do I get my blood drawn and what do I take to phlebotomist?

Check with your doctor's office or local hospital to see if they will draw your blood. We do not contract directly with phlebotomy services and have no affiliation. You may check our [Blood Draw Locations](#) in addition to checking your local area. Please note these labs are independently owned and the policies and prices will vary. The blood draw fee is your responsibility.

Please take the entire test kit with you to the phlebotomist. Complete instructions are included. Both the Blood Metals Panel and the Mercury Tri-Test® require a blood draw.

What is included in the test kits?

All kits will include the following items regardless of which test you are requesting. Please collect only the specimen needed for your test. The specimen needed will be listed on the patient request form for each test.

- Requisition Form: This is the form that will link your test to you and your practitioner
- Tubes: There will be tubes for urine, hair, or blood depending on the test kit you purchased
- Collection instructions
- Biohazard bag
- Return shipping label and bag for U.S. orders

What paperwork is necessary? Do I need to answer all of the questions on the requisition form?

A requisition form is included in every kit. This form will link your sample and test results to you and your practitioner if your practitioner ordered the test. Please ensure that you fill out the form in its entirety and in legible handwriting. *Missing or illegible information will delay processing.*

How long can I wait to collect my blood, urine, hair samples?

Blood and urine samples must be taken within 48 hours of each other, otherwise the excretion ratios will be affected. If samples are not collected properly, we cannot accept the samples and you will need to obtain another blood and urine collection. We will hold the hair sample for one month.



Can I use hair from different parts of my body?

How much hair do I need for the sample?

Yes. You can use hair from any part of the body. You will need a clump of hair about 1 inch in length and 1 inch in width when laid flat. The hair sample should be from close to scalp, not the ends of hair farthest from the scalp. See the complete instructions with a picture in our Combo Test Kit Patient Instructions on our website. These instructions are sent to you with your test kit.

Do I need to fast?

No, fasting is not required.

After collecting the samples, how quickly do they need to be returned?

For the most accurate results, we recommend the samples are shipped immediately. A 2-day shipping label is provided in your test kit for U.S. orders.

Will the Mercury Tri-Test® determine my toxicity levels?

There is no test that directly measures toxicity. Toxicity is not a level of something but rather the body's reaction to the level. The reaction is determined by genetics, nutritional status, presence of other synergistic toxins (i.e. lead, mold exposure, PCB's), and the presence of other pathologies such as hidden infections.

The blood draw helps inform the practitioner of the blood levels of different forms of mercury, and the urine and hair help determine the function of detoxification pathways and excretion capabilities.

This helps the practitioner to determine whether the metal burden is a potential problem and/or contributing to possible health concerns.

Why is there a missing data point on my test results?

If there is a missing data point on your Mercury Tri-Test®, that means that the levels are so low that they are not detectible on the graph. For more information, contact your practitioner.



Why are chelation agents unnecessary prior to testing?

Quicksilver's mercury speciation technology has the ability to differentiate methyl and inorganic mercury in the part per trillion range. The test is also designed to see how well the body is excreting mercury from the body. There are no chelation/provocation reference ranges.

The use of provocation agents artificially inflates the levels in the blood and urine which disrupts the biological information of how the body is dealing with its mercury load under normal day-to-day conditions.

When taking certain detoxification-promoting compounds like glutathione, lipoic acid, or EDTA, metals become mobilized from cells and into blood temporarily elevating blood levels of mercury.

We recommend discussing this topic with your practitioner.

Is there ever a “safe” level of mercury on the Blood Metals Panel or do you essentially always recommend speciation since inorganic mercury is toxic at low levels?

If there is a history of mercury exposure, dental amalgams and/or excessive fish consumption, it is recommended to complete the Mercury Tri-Test®. If only the total mercury is tested, inorganic mercury levels will be missed.

How long will it take to get my results back?

Our lab team works diligently to process and analyze each test in a timely fashion. In most cases, it takes roughly three weeks from receipt to completion. We cannot guarantee processing time due to holiday schedules and/or unforeseen circumstances which may cause periodic delays to this timing.

You or your practitioner will be notified via email when results are available in our secure Quicksilver Scientific testing portal.



How do I access my results?

Results can be accessed through our testing portal. The portal is the only way to view results. For security purposes, Quicksilver Scientific does not send results via email, fax, or mail.

Patient Accounts: If you are testing as a patient, and have selected on your patient request form to have your results be released to you, a testing portal account will be created. A valid email address must be provided on the patient request form in order for this to happen. Once you have a testing portal account, you should receive an email to get your account set up. If this option is not selected, test result access will go directly to your practitioner.

Practitioner Accounts: Practitioners will have an account created to access patient's results in our testing portal. Please ensure that a valid email address is provided on the patient request form under the practitioner information section. If an email account is not provided, you will not have access. To gain access, please contact us at testing@quicksilverscientific.com.

Once you have a testing portal account, you will receive email notifications every time there is a status change to one of your tests, for example – when the sample arrives at the lab, when testing analysis begins, and when the results become available.

