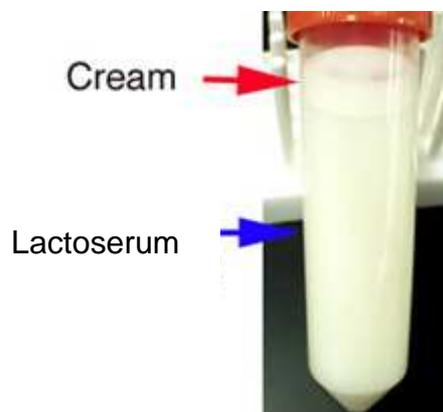


Recommendations for Milk Testing

- It is possible to test skimmed or whole milks.
 - **Skim milk:** Centrifuge (15 min at 2000g) each whole milk sample, or let samples sit, so that the cream separates from the lactosermum (cream on the top, lactosermum on the bottom). It is of course easier to just let samples sit rather than centrifuging, but both options are possible. In either case, pipette under the cream so that only the lactosermum enters the cone. (Antibodies are found in the lactosermum.)



- **Whole milk:** If testing whole milk (without cream separated from the lactosermum), be careful that there is no fatty ring left in the well after washing. To avoid any fat residues, and depending on the wash system used, it is possible to include one, or several, soaking times of 2 – 5 minutes between washes.
- Make sure that the milk samples are transported as soon as possible to the lab, preferably within 24 hours. If longer transportation is needed it is highly recommended to use preservatives such as Bronopol.
- None of the commonly used milk preservatives interfere with ELISA results (bronopol etc.)
- Do not use the milk if the sample presents a strong odour: bacterial contamination may cause a loss of antibodies and affect results.
- It is possible to use curdled milk. Be sure, however, that the milk curds (which contain milk proteins like casein) do not block the pipette tip or washing head, and that the curds are eliminated after washing.
- Preserved samples may be kept for several days at 4°C
- Freeze at -20°C for long term storage (for up to about 5 years) but be sure that recipients are well closed to avoid evaporation. Avoid repeated freezing / thawing cycles (preferably no more than three).