

## NVRL Tube Guide for Sample Collection

### General Blood Collection Guidelines

**Request forms** must be labelled with the following information

- A **MINIMUM of TWO PATIENT IDENTIFIERS** (Name, DOB, Laboratory Number, Hospital number)
- Additional patient identification including gender and address
- Date and time of sample collection
- A **clear list** of the **required investigations**
- Name and contact **details of the requesting clinician** for issue of results
- Clinical details including date of onset of symptoms

Note: When both serology and molecular testing are required, please submit **two separate blood samples**. If only one sample is provided, molecular testing will take precedence, which can affect TATs for serology results.

**Samples** must be labelled with the following information:

- A **MINIMUM of TWO PATIENT IDENTIFIERS** (Name, DOB, Laboratory Number, Hospital number)
- Date and time of sample collection

Minimum volume required	Blood	Separated (aliquot) Serum/Plasma
Routine tests	5ml	2ml
Paediatrics	2ml	1ml

### SEROLOGICAL TESTING

**Whole clotted blood (tubes with/without gel) or serum separated samples** are preferred for serological investigation, as per the NVRL Virus Testing Index. However, EDTA blood is also suitable for these tests.



These samples are **not suitable for EBV, CMV or HIV MOLECULAR investigations.**

## MOLECULAR TESTING

**EDTA whole blood (tubes with/without gel) or plasma separated samples** are suitable for **all molecular investigations** as per the NVRL Virus Testing Index. **GEL TUBES** are the collection device of choice for all molecular investigations at the NVRL.



All samples for molecular investigation must be separated and frozen within 24 hours of venepuncture.

### Unsuitable blood samples for testing at the NVRL

**Clotted blood** and **EDTA plasma** are the specimens of choice for investigation at the NVRL. Samples collected in tubes containing **heparin (lithium/sodium), citrate, fluoride, oxalate, ESR, or other additives/tubes** may be considered non-validated specimen types and be rejected for testing to prevent analytical interference.



Citrate



Heparin



Fluoride/Oxalate



ESR, ACD, CPDA, metal traces, FC mix, crossmatch