

## NVRL Tube Guide for Sample Collection

### General Samples Collection Guidelines

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
- Swab site, where applicable

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
- Swab site, where applicable
- 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

### SEROLOGICAL TESTING: Clotted Blood/Serum Samples – Collection tubes with/without gel



Clotted Blood/Serum samples are suitable for all **SEROLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS** as per the NVRL Virus Testing Index. **These samples are not suitable for EBV, CMV or HIV MOLECULAR INVESTIGATIONS.**

Minimum volumes	Clotted Blood	Separated Serum
Routine testing	5ml	2ml
Paediatrics	2ml	1ml

**MOLECULAR TESTING: EDTA Whole Blood/Plasma – Collection tubes with/without gel**



EDTA Whole Blood/Plasma 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.**

Minimum volumes	Clotted Blood	Separated Plasma
Routine testing	5ml	2ml
Paediatrics	2ml	1ml

**Unsuitable Sample Types for testing at the NVRL**

Sample types other than Clotted Blood and EDTA plasma are **NOT THE SPECIMENS OF CHOICE** for investigation at the NVRL. The following sample types may be rejected for testing: Lithium-heparin, Sodium-citrate, Sodium-fluoride etc.



**Lithium Heparin**

**Sodium Citrate**

**Sodium Fluoride**