

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
Pediatrics	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
Pediatrics	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