



Guidelines for Sample Storage

Note: Please check that the sample is labelled with the first and last names, date and time of collect, and site when appropriate.

These guidelines are for routine testing **ONLY**. Please refer to the [Handbook](#) for detailed instructions on specific assays requirements

Aspirates	Transport to the laboratory without delay
Biopsy/ Tissue	Samples in Formalin – room temperature Fresh samples- for immediate delivery to lab
Blood Cultures	Transport to the laboratory without delay
Blood Tubes	Blue top - INR's, PT's - room temperature for up to 12 hours DO NOT collect any other specialised coagulation tests (e.g. lupus, Factor V Leiden etc.) Grey top - refrigerate Green top - centrifuge and refrigerate Lavender/purple top - room temperature for up to 24 hours Orange - centrifuge and refrigerate <i>If do not have a centrifuge, transport to the lab within 4 hours</i>
Cytology Smears	Room temperature
CT/NG PCR yellow top tube	Room temperature
Faeces	Fresh - refrigerate. Some tests require freezing– refer to handbook SAF / Fixative – room temperature
Seminal Fluid	DO NOT store - refer to separate document
Skin Scrapings	Room temperature
Sputum	Refrigerate
Swabs	Green top viral - refrigerate Pink top COVID-19 – refrigerate Purple top - room temperature Red top - refrigerate
Thin Prep Vials	Room temperature
Urines	Refrigerate as soon as possible after collection