

Blood Sampling Instructions for RCGP RSC Practice: HOCO surveillance

1. This box contains a vacutainer tube, a request form for the blood sample, an oral fluid kit (comprising a swab in a tube in a sealed packet) together with two specimen labels, two green topped outer tubes, a clear plastic specimen bag, BD Vacutainer One Use Holder, Blood Collection Set (Safetylok Sterile Closed), and a reply paid envelope for return of the samples to Porton Down. If a finger prick sample is needed use the safety lancets and alcohol swabs.
2. After the **venous blood sample** is taken, enter the date on the specimen label and stick to the vacutainer tube, and enter the date and time on the request form. Then place the vacutainer tube in the green topped tube (stopper end outwards) and then in the clear plastic bag.
3. **For a finger prick sample** ensure the child's hand is warm. Use the second or third finger and wipe site with the alcohol swab first and allow to dry. The Lancet should enter on the side of the ball of the finger perpendicular to the lines of the fingerprint. Wipe away the first drop and collect subsequent drops into the vacutainer. Ask the parent to rhythmically tighten and release the child's wrist, to ensure that there is sufficient flow of blood but avoid excessive massaging or squeezing of fingers as this will cause haemolysis and impede blood flow. To complete the necessary blood tests ideally the vacutainer needs to be half full of blood. A second safety lancet is provided if a second stab needs to be made. Label and pack vacutainer as in 2 above.
4. Give the oral fluid kit and specimen label to the household member to provide their own oral fluid sample. Check that date and time of sample has been entered on the oral fluid request form and that the household member has attached the specimen label to the oral fluid tube and placed this into the outer green topped tube.
5. When the blood and oral fluid samples have both been taken and each placed in their green topped tube, place the tube with the blood sample in the clear plastic bag along with the 2nd green top tube with the oral sample and the two request forms back into the cardboard box, and place the box in the prepaid plastic grey envelope, and seal for return to Porton.
6. Give the grey envelope to the household member to post.
7. To expedite payment, email (**from your NHS.NET account**) the list of household members from whom samples were taken together with the Household ID number and the date taken to this address phe.covid19hoco@nhs.net

Thank you for your participation