

Blood and Transplant

Important information for action:

Christmas & New Year arrangements for fetal *RHD* screening samples

Dear colleagues

In a bid to ensure that fetal *RHD* screening samples arrive in time this Christmas and New Year, we would like to make you aware of our [IBGRL and transport and working times](#).

NHSBT overnight transport times between centres **will vary depending upon blood supply activity** over the Christmas and New Year period and weekend deliveries. This is especially important for Trusts where it may take 2 or 3 days for NHSBT Transport to deliver samples.

Please note that:

- NHSBT Filton 'Goods in' is manned 24/7 and therefore able to receive samples 24/7 but
- IBGRL Molecular Diagnostics opening times will be limited to those stated in the attachment.

Therefore, whilst samples will continue to be received at NHSBT Filton on IBGRL non-working days, they will **not be received and processed by Molecular Diagnostics until their next working day**.

With this in mind, any samples received by Molecular Diagnostics that are > 7 days old will be rejected, **even if they were in date when they were received at NHSBT Filton**. These samples will be chargeable at a cost of £12.00 as outlined in our [User Guide](#) page 4 sample requirements.

To prevent samples from being rejected during the Christmas and New Year period, please consider:

1. Sending these samples by 1st class post ensuring next day delivery
or
2. Postponing clinic appointments and take these samples after Christmas & New Year

IBGRL Molecular Diagnostics would also like to advise our customers that turnaround times might be longer than normally experienced but should be within the contractual time of 14 days from receipt at our Filton laboratory.

Kind regards
Erika

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Visit nhsbt.nhs.uk or hospital.blood.co.uk