

8 April 20

RCI Update – Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Dear Colleagues,

RCI are in a position to test samples from patients with COVID-19 infection.

We only have capacity to test these samples where they would normally be referred to RCI.

RCI should be notified in advance of referral samples which are known or suspected to contain COVID-19

Samples and request forms should be labelled “high risk”.

Packaging must comply with [UN3373](#). The sample must be properly sealed, and placed in a sealed plastic bag, with an adsorbent pad, placed in a protective container such as a sample box or plastic tub.

Some of RCI’s processes involve prolonged or complex manipulations of patient material with an increased risk of aerosol formation. We need to discuss and assess the clinical needs of the patient in deciding which tests to do, and some techniques will not be used for samples containing COVID-19.

Please avoid sending samples containing COVID-19 for overnight or weekend investigation.

Kind regards,

Dr Mark Williams
Head of Red Cell Immunohaematology
NHS Blood and Transplant
Email: mark.williams@nhsbt.nhs.uk

