



Suspected COVID-19 cases

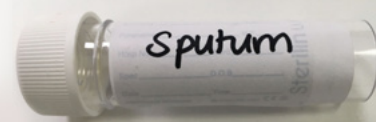
Sampling and Packaging

Diagnostic samples for suspected cases



1. Upper respiratory tract sample options:

- individual nose and throat swabs in separate collection tubes OR
- combined nose and throat swab in one collection tube containing universal transport medium OR
- single swab used for throat then nose OR
- nasopharyngeal aspirate.



2. Lower respiratory tract sample in universal container (sputum) if obtainable.

If the patient is admitted, take a sample for acute serology: 5mL in either serum tube or plain (no additive) tube. For children <12 years, 1mL is acceptable.

Packaging

Note: Picture uses the example of a bio bottle. Other packaging can be used providing either the primary receptacle or the secondary packaging is capable of withstanding an internal pressure of 95 kPa.



Ensure lids are tight and decontaminate outside. Careful not to cross thread



Wrap sample with absorbent material



Individually place into zip-lock bag



Seal zip-lock bag & change gloves



Add all wrapped samples into second bag



Wrap bagged samples in ample packaging & place into secondary packaging (bio bottle example as shown)



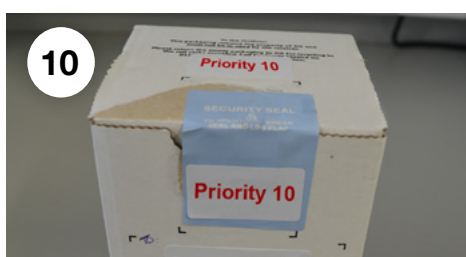
Firmly attach lid (or seal bag if alternative packaging used)



Ensure E28 request forms for each individual sample are **OUTSIDE** the secondary packaging



Place E28 request forms & bio-bottle into transport box & add security seal



Label box with 'Priority 10', you can download the labelling template at bit.ly/2vrRNxT



Send to your nominated PHE laboratory

Courier all samples to PHE via Category B UN3373. PHE is open to receive samples 24/7

Download the request form for COVID-19 (formerly novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV)

www.gov.uk/government/publications/testing-for-wuhan-novel-cov-2019-ncov

The form is titled 'COVID-19 Screening Request Form' and is labeled 'E28'. It is a form for requesting a COVID-19 screening test. It includes sections for 'SENDER INFORMATION', 'PATIENT/SOURCE INFORMATION', 'SAMPLE INFORMATION', and 'LABORATORY REQUEST'. The form is designed to be filled out by a healthcare professional and sent to a nominated PHE laboratory.