
QuantiFERON TB GOLD Plus Test

Notes for Initial Processing of Specimens for the QuantiFERON- TB GOLD Plus Test

A. Samples for initial processing at Canterbury Health Laboratories collection only Monday – Thursday NO Friday – Sunday collection. Samples to be received the same day by 16:00

- 1 Please note the order of draw is grey, green, yellow, purple as these tubes contain Heparin

Order of Draw:

Grey Tube (Nil Control)
Green Tube (TB1)
Yellow Tube (TB2)
Purple Tube (Mit)

If other tests are requested collect tubes in this order: Citrate, SST, Lithium heparin, EDTA, PPT, Quantiferon tubes (Grey, Green, Yellow, Purple) **Quantiferon tubes are always last to be drawn when taking with other tubes.**

1 ml of blood must be collected into each tube.

1 ml is indicated by the black mark on the side of the tube.

NOTE: More or less than 1 ml of blood invalidates the test.

Mix well by turning tube end over end 8 – 10 times.

- 2 The specimen should be transported at room temperature. It must NOT be refrigerated or frozen prior to incubation. Send to CHL within 6 hours.

B. Samples that are not able to reach Canterbury Health Laboratories within six hours require pre-incubation at referral laboratory.

1 Collect as in A

- The tubes must be mixed again immediately prior to incubation
- Mix the tubes by turning end over end 8 – 10 times or shaking the tube for 5 seconds ensuring that the entire inner surface of the tube has been coated with the blood.
- Thorough mixing is required to ensure complete mixing of the blood with the tube's contents.

NOTE: Insufficient mixing may invalidate the test.

- 2 Incubate the tubes UPRIGHT at 37°C for 16 to 24 hours. The incubator does not require CO₂ or humidification.
- 3 After the incubation period the tubes should be centrifuged for 15 minutes at 2000 to 3000 RCF (g) to harvest the plasma. The gel plug will separate the cells from the plasma. If this does not occur, the tubes should be re-centrifuged at a higher speed.
- Ensure that the gel plug has separated the cells from the plasma prior to couriering the specimen.
- 4 Samples should be sent to Canterbury Health Laboratories chilled. A request form with clinical details requesting QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus should accompany every request.

Attention: Virology/Serology Laboratory

C. Enquiries to Virology/Serology, Canterbury Health Laboratories, 03 364 0416

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Canterbury Health Laboratories

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