Laboratory sampling for nCoV2019/Wuhan coronavirus. GG&C guidelines

(See WoSSVC website for full details: https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/laboratory-medicine/laboratory-disciplines/microbiology-and-virology/west-of-scotland-specialist-virology-centre/#)

For any possible case the following set of samples need to be collected:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WoSSVC</th>
<th>PHE Colindale sample set</th>
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| 1. Upper respiratory tract (URT) specimen:  
- Combined viral nose and throat swab*  
or viral nose swab and viral throat swab  
or nasopharyngeal aspirate | 1. Upper respiratory tract (URT) specimen:  
- Combined viral nose and throat swab*  
or viral nose swab and viral throat swab  
or nasopharyngeal aspirate |
| 2. Lower respiratory tract (LRT) specimen:  
Sputum, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) if bronchoscopy clinically indicated.  
**INDUCTION OF SPUTUM SHOULD BE AVOIDED.** | 2. Lower respiratory tract (LRT) specimen:  
Sputum, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL) if bronchoscopy clinically indicated.  
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| 3. EDTA whole blood (5ml) | 4. Clotted blood serum- yellow or red top bottles |
| 5. Faeces (5ml) in universal container  
Urine (universal container half full)  
**URINE AND FAECES NOT ESSENTIAL – DO NOT DELAY SENDING OTHER TESTS IF THESE ARE NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE** | |

NB Point of Care tests including ABG / Influenza /Finger prick glucose testing should NOT be performed for these patients.

*see next page for description of how to take swabs
Taking samples:

**Upper respiratory samples:** Please send the URT sample in the VPSS container. Please remove the swab before sending.

*To take a nasal swab, push the swab gently towards the back of the nose, making sure to touch the basal mucosa. Rotate gently. Remove and then agitate the tip of the swab in the pink viral medium and dispose of the swab. To take a pharyngeal swab, be careful not to touch the tongue, rotate the swab along the back of the throat and the tonsils. Remove and then agitate the tip of the swab in the same pink viral medium as was used for the nasal swab.*

Packaging:

Please put each specimen separately into a plastic bag and then into the plastic container of the category B packaging and finally into the box of the category B packaging.

- For WoSSVC: 1 upper and 1 lower respiratory tract sample
- For PHE: 1 upper and lower respiratory tract sample, EDTA, Serum and stool and urine if available. **Do not delay sending samples while waiting for urine and stool.**

Please write on the outside of the boxes either WoSSVC or PHE.
Please print out the Wuhan request form, available on the West of Scotland Specialist Virology Centre website: https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/media/258042/e28-phe-testing-for-wuhan-cov-form.pdf and place inside the box (but not the plastic container) of the PHE box.

There is a trakcare option for requesting 2019-nCoV for the WoSSVC samples.

Samples should be sent with Category B packaging (see picture above). This can then be sent to the lab by taxi.

The WoSSVC will need to be alerted to any possible cases and also when the samples are leaving the clinical area.

9am-5pm Monday to Friday: 0141 201 8722
Out of hours: On call virologist via switchboard 0141 211 4000

Other tests for patients being assessed for possible nCoV2019/Wuhan coronavirus

Point of Care tests including ABG / Influenza / Finger prick glucose testing should NOT be performed for these patients.

Routine bloods can be sent to the laboratory packaged as normal but should be labelled as ‘High Risk’ with nCoV2019 coronavirus on the clinical information so laboratory staff know samples should be handled as per ‘category 2’ risk.

NB PLEASE PHONE the labs as well as record this on the Trakcare referral.

Please DO NOT use PODS to send samples– transfer samples via porters only