

Suspected COVID-19 cases

Sampling and Packaging

Diagnostic samples for suspected cases



- Upper respiratory tract sample options:
 - single swab used for throat then nose OR
 - nasopharyngeal aspirate.



- 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.



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



2 Wrap sample with absorbent material



3 Individually place into zip-lock bag



4 Seal zip-lock bag & change gloves



5 Add all wrapped samples into second bag



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



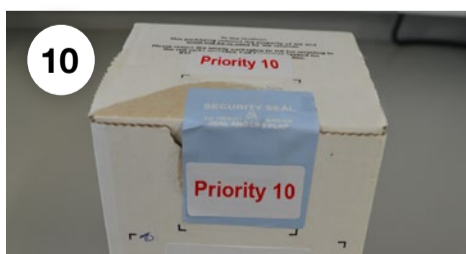
7 Firmly attach lid (or seal bag if alternative packaging used)



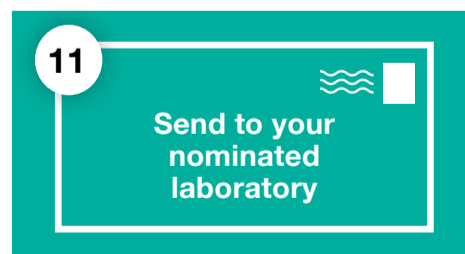
8 Ensure request forms for each individual sample are **OUTSIDE** the secondary packaging



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



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



11 Courier all samples to laboratory via Category B UN3373.