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COVID-19 - EQA Sample Processing Information

Please note, mechanisms are in place to ensure material is not used by UK NEQAS LI from patients with confirmed or suspected COVID-19.

Furthermore, published studies show that peripheral blood samples such as those used by UK NEQAS LI have a low likelihood of carrying the SARS-COV2 virus 1,2.

As outlined within our standard coversheet, no material is knowingly used that is positive for pathogens. However, as the EQA material provided may be derived from patient sources it should be handled in line with local laboratory health and safety practices. Laboratories should process samples in line with the information provided in the trial coversheet and their standard local health and safety procedures, plus any additional procedures that have been introduced for handling biological specimens during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Links to helpful information for the processing of laboratory specimens during the pandemic can be found here: <https://www.aqmlm.org.uk/?q=node/546>

Please refer to our website for UK NEQAS LI's current position on COVID-19: <http://www.ukneqasli.co.uk/contact-us/covid-19-response-and-statement/>

1: Wang W, Xu Y, Gao R, Lu R, Han K, Wu G, Tan W. Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Different Types of Clinical Specimens. JAMA. 2020 Mar 11.

2: Wölfel R, Corman VM, Guggemos W, Seilmaier M, Zange S, Müller MA, Niemeyer D, Jones TC, Vollmar P, Rothe C, Hoelscher M, Bleicker T, Brünink S, Schneider J, Ehmann R, Zwirgmaier K, Drosten C, Wendtner C. Virological assessment of hospitalized patients with COVID-2019. Nature. 2020 Apr 1