

Staff Guide:

QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT®-Plus) Test Blood Collection and Tube Handling Technique



Before collecting the blood, please familiarize yourself with the notes that follow steps 1 - 3.

Step 1: Blood Collection

Before dialysis, collect 1.0 mL blood into each blood collection tube.

- Blood collection tubes should be at room temperature (17 - 25°C) at the time of blood collection.
- As 1 mL tubes draw blood relatively slowly, keep the tube on the needle for 2 - 3 seconds once the tube appears to have completed filling.
- The black mark on the side of the tubes indicates the validated range of 0.8 to 1.2 mL. If the level of blood in any tube is outside of the indicator mark, a new blood sample should be obtained.
- It is important to ensure the needle or angiocath is free of air prior to collecting the samples.

Order of collection:



1. Grey cap (Nil)
2. Green cap (TB1 Antigen)
3. Yellow cap (TB2 Antigen)
4. Purple cap (Mitogen Control)



Step 2: Tube Shaking

Immediately after filling the tubes, shake them ten (10) times, just firmly enough to ensure the entire inner surface of tube is coated with blood. Overly vigorous shaking may cause gel disruption and could lead to aberrant results.

Step 3: Label Tubes & Send to Local Laboratory

When labelling the tube, do not cover the black mark and the window. Send tubes to the local laboratory at the in-centre unit hospital as soon as possible (tubes must be incubated within 16 hours of collection). Do not refrigerate or freeze the blood samples. The laboratory will incubate, centrifuge, aliquot and ship samples to the BC Public Health Microbiology and Reference Lab, Zoonotic Diseases & Emerging Pathogens Program.

Notes:

1. If the QuantiFERON tubes are collected after other bloodwork is collected (e.g., q6 weeks), there is no need to use the tall red tube as a purge tube.
2. Do not use the Nil tube as a purge tube. Tubes are purchased as a set and cost \$20/set.
3. If several tubes in a lot are faulty, notify the Zoonotic Lab of the lot number for further investigation.
4. If another tube must be used for collection, set aside the remaining tubes in the set for future use, as needed.
5. Check the expiry date of the collection tubes prior to blood collection.
6. Blood tube draw order of Grey, Green, Yellow, and Purple while preferred is not required and should not constitute a recollection if performed in an alternate sequence.

Adapted from: QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus - blood collection (www.ndhealth.gov/microlab/docs/QuickGuide_QFT_GenBlood_EN_0411_QF_LR.pdf)