

## **Guide to Request for SARS Coronavirus Testing**

Pathology Service, Department of Health, Hong Kong

### **1. Contact information**

Consultant Medical Microbiologist	2319 8252
Senior Medical and Health Officer	2319 8254
Medical and Health Officer	2319 8253
Culture and Serology Laboratory	2319 8237/9
Facsimile	2319 5989
Address	Government Virus Unit 9/F Public Health Laboratory Centre 382 Nam Cheong Street, Shek Kip Mei, Kowloon

### **2. Specimen collection**

1. Direct detection by RT-PCR (reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction):
  - Nasopharyngeal aspirate (NPA) (or throat & nasal swab in a single container if NPA is not obtainable)
  - StoolPlace specimens in viral transport medium (provided by the laboratory on request).
2. Paired antibody titre:
  - Acute clotted blood/serum, as soon as possible after onset of illness
  - Convalescent clotted blood/serum, at least 2 weeks after onset of illnessPlace specimens in plain bottle without anticoagulants.

### **3. Laboratory request form**

1. A laboratory request form, DH1293, obtainable from the Government Virus Unit, must be completed in duplicate and accompany each specimen.
2. The following information must be legible to ensure expedient specimen processing:
  - Patient particulars (name, sex, date of birth/age, HKID no., hospital, ward, bed)
  - Symptoms/provisional diagnosis
  - Date of specimen taking
  - Nature of specimen
  - Test requested
  - Signature and name of requesting doctor
  - Address and/or fax number to which report is to be directed
3. The specimen container must be labeled with at least 2 patient identifiers matching those on the request form. Incompletely labeled specimens will be rejected.

### **4. Transport of specimen**

1. Ensure container is properly capped without leakage.
2. Place the specimen container in a plastic bag with the request form outside the bag.
3. For transport, place specimens in a rigid container at 4°C, and keep specimens upright to minimize the possibility of spillage.
4. Specimens should arrive at the Government Virus Unit within 24 hours of collection.