

## Guide to suitable Specimens for Virological Investigations

Guide to Virological Tests	
Respiratory Infection	Congenital Syndromes
CNS (Central Nervous System) Infection	Hepatitis
CVS (cardiovascular system) Infection	Arthralgia/Myalgia
Rash Syndromes	Lymphadenopathy Syndrome
Eye Infections	Haemorrhagic Fevers
Gastroenteritis	Rabies

Key to Abbreviations:	
T/S	Throat swab
T/W	Throat washings
VTM	Viral transport medium
Blood	Clotted blood in plain tube, no preservative. Where required to detect a significant rise in titre, two blood specimens taken 10 to 14 days apart must be sent to the laboratory.

Respiratory Infections				
Main Viruses Involved	Throat Swab in VTM	Stool	Blood	Other
Influenza	+	-	+	-
Parainfluenza	+	-	+	-
Measles	+	-	+	-
Adenovirus	+	-	+	-
Respiratory syncytial virus	+	-	+	-
Other Viruses Involved	Throat Swab in VTM	Stool	Blood	Other
HSV, VZV	+	-	+	-
CMV	-	-	+	T/W
EBV	-	-	+	-
Enteros	+	+	+	-
CNS Infections				
Main Viruses Involved	Throat Swab in VTM	Stool	Blood	Other
Enteroviruses	+	+	+	CSF

HSV, Measles, Mumps	+	-	+	CSF
Arbovirus, HIV	-	-	+	CSF
<b>CVS Infections</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
Coxsackie	-	+	+	-
Influenza	+	-	+	-
<b>Rash syndromes</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
HSV, VZV	+	-	+	Vesicle fluid for Em or vesicle swab in VTM
Non-polio enteroviruses	+	+	+	-
Measles	+	-	+	-
Rubella, Arbovirus, EBV	-	-	+	-
HIV, Parvovirus	-	-	+	-
<b>Eye Infections</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
Adenovirus, HSV	-	-	+	Conjunctival swab in VTM
Coxsackie A	-	+	-	-
<b>Gastroenteritis</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
Rota, Adeno, Norwalk	-	+	-	-
<b>Congenital Syndromes</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
Rubella, CMV	-	-	+	Urine
HSV	-	-	+	Vesicle swab in VTM
HIV, Parvovirus	-	-	+	-
<b>Hepatitis</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>

HAV, HBV, HCV, CMV, Arbovirus	-	-	+	-
<b>Arthralgia/Myalgia</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
Coxsackie	-	+	+	-
Arbovirus, Rubella	-	-	+	-
Parvovirus	-	-	+	-
<b>Lymphadenopathy Syndrome</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
CMV	-	-	+	Urine
EBV, HIV	-	-	+	-
<b>Haemorrhagic Fevers</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
RVF, CCHF, Marburg, Lassa, Ebola, Hantaan	-	-	+	Contact lab
<b>Rabies</b>				
<b>Main Viruses Involved</b>	<b>Throat Swab in VTM</b>	<b>Stool</b>	<b>Blood</b>	<b>Other</b>
Rabies	-	-	+	Repeated blood samples or autopsy brain material in glycerol-saline