

# Use of POCT equipment for patients with suspected coronavirus

## Blood gas analysers

Analysis of blood (**NOT** pleural fluid) on the **RapidPoint 500** blood gas analyser is acceptable, providing the following precautions are taken:

- Any procedures that may result in aerosol generation of the blood sample **MUST NOT** be performed (e.g. shaking sample or excessive force on the syringe plunger when capped or uncapped).
- The normal procedure for expelling the first few drops of blood from the syringe **MUST NOT** be followed. **Whilst in the isolation bay**, air should be **carefully** expelled prior to analysis using the filter cap provided, and the sample mixed as usual, but there should be **no expulsion of blood**.
- The syringe **MUST** be decontaminated with a disinfectant wipe before testing.
- The syringe **MUST** be **re-capped** following analysis and before disposal in a sharps bin.
- The waste cartridge for the blood gas analyser **MUST** be **double-bagged** in clinical waste bags when it is due for replacement (please inform Point of Care).
- Following analysis, the analyser **MUST** be disinfected with **10,000 ppm sodium hypochlorite solution** and a lint-free wipe.
- Spillage onto work surfaces **MUST** be cleaned up immediately with a hypochlorite disinfectant/wipe.

**N.B.** The RapidLab 1200 blood gas analysers (located on L45 and J03) **MUST NOT** be used to analyse samples from suspected coronavirus patients, due to the requirement for manual emptying of the waste bottle.

## Urinalysis

Samples should **NOT** be analysed on POCT urine analysers (Clinitek Status+) **under any circumstances**. However, dipsticks can be used by the patient's bedside and **read by eye only**.

## Glucose & Ketone Meters

Analysis on the **Nova Glucose & Ketone** meters is acceptable, providing that specific precautions are taken. **Please refer to the Glucose poster.**

## Flu

Analysis on the **Roche Liat** flu analyser is acceptable, providing that specific precautions are taken. **Please refer to the poster by the flu analyser.**

## All other POCT equipment

(e.g. INR machine (CoaguChek) / HbA1c (DCA Vantage) / iSTAT / HemoCue)

**No analysis should be performed on any other POCT equipment under any circumstances.**

If the test is required, a sample should be sent to the laboratory for analysis.

If you have any further questions, please contact Point of Care Testing:

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SJUH Ext: 64791

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