

PCR positivity for COVID-19 in blood samples

Current guidance from Public Health England is that blood samples from patients infected with COVID-19 are treated as high risk (<https://tinyurl.com/rjd7gft>) . This is based on previous experience with other coronaviruses that showed a high degree of viraemia in plasma and serum (Chang *et al*, 2020).

Recent data from the disease control centres in the Hubei and Shandong provinces of China shows that the PCR positivity rate in blood (1%) and urine (0%) samples is relatively low in patients with COVID-19 infection (Wang *et al*, 2020). It is expected that the sample handling advice for laboratories may be changed to reflect this in due course.

From the BSH Haemostasis and Thrombosis Task Force, 18-03-2020

References:

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Wang, W., Xu, Y., Gao, R., Lu, R., Han, K., Wu, G. & Tan, W. (2020) Detection of SARS-CoV-2 in Different Types of Clinical Specimens. *JAMA*, 3–4.