

Newbridge Scientific

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Effective Date: 01/08/2023

Title: Procedure for Sample Collection: Blood samples for Serological testing.

Objective: To provide representative sample of sera of good quality for serological testing.

Materials required: Grip-seal sample bag, disposable gloves, bleeding needle, lancet or blade, or syringes and needle, blood tubes.

Method:

1. Check the number of samples required per house by consulting a vet.
2. Put on disposable gloves.
3. Identify the grip-seal bag with the farm name, house number and sampling date.
4. Obtain a suitable rack to hold the blood tubes.
5. Randomly select the required numbers of birds throughout the house. If there are multiple pens – select samples in proportion to the number of birds in each pen.
6. Pluck feathers from the underside of the wing, over the elbow joint, to visualise the axillary vein.
7. Puncture the vein with the bleeding needle to achieve satisfactory blood flow and collect as much as possible into the tube – ideally, just over half full. Alternatively, collect the blood from the same vein, using syringe and needle. Clean/sanitise needles between the birds with a moist sanitising wipe.
8. Ensure the lid of the tube is properly sealed. Lay the tube flat or slanted, until clotted (in Winter, this can take longer – it may help to keep them in a warm office environment during this process)
9. Complete the submission form, ensuring to include the tests that you would like, the business name, farm name, house number, age of birds and date of sampling.

For all samples:

Plan for samples to arrive on a weekday.

Use appropriate sample numbers and containers – consult the Laboratory or supervising vet if in any doubt.

Package in a secure leakproof manner and submit on the day of sampling. If not possible, please keep samples refrigerated (not frozen)

Complete the submission form and place separately to the samples.