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West Nile Virus/ Chickungunya virus/ Yellow fever virus virus Real time RT - PCR assays
Brief guideline for send - out samples

	Description
Request	Very brief history is mandatory <u>highlighting the day of illness</u> which the blood was collected for testing Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly Container should be properly labelled
Time of Sample collection	Sample should be collected with-in first five days of illness (early sample)
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	Blood in EDTA tube or plain plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume Please note <u>samples in glass bottles including penicillin bottles with rubber tops may not be accepted for PCR testing</u> Also, heparinized or very low volume samples(< 2 mL) may not be accepted for testing too
Test Availability	These assays are performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2 to 8°C</u> as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested

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Dengue virus Real time PCR assay/Serotype assay (Multiplex)
Brief guideline for send - out samples (V2.0)

	Description
Request	Very brief history is mandatory <u>highlighting the day of illness</u> which the blood was collected for testing Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly Container should be properly labelled
Time of Sample collection	Sample should be collected with-in first five days of illness (early sample) Late samples (after day 7 of illness) should not be accepted for the Dengue PCR test
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	Blood in EDTA tube or plain plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume Please note <u>samples in glass bottles including penicillin bottles with rubber tops may not be accepted for PCR testing</u> Also, heparinized or very low volume samples(< 2 mL) may not be accepted for testing too
Test Availability	The assay is performed minimum of once per week depending on the test volume
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2 to 8°C</u> as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For Laboratory testing of anti-dengue IgM/IgG and dengue NS1 (V2.0)

	Description
Available tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dengue IgM ELISA/ICT • Dengue IgG ELISA/ICT • Dengue NS1 Antigen ICT (For dengue PCR/serotyping see guidelines for dengue PCR)
Testing criteria to be included in request form	History is mandatory highlighting, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical features: acute onset of fever, rash, retro orbital pain, myalgia • Date of onset of illness • Any other investigations done (FBC) • Travel history • Fill all the other components of the request form very clearly
Time of sample collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For dengue IgM- after the 5th day of illness • For dengue IgG – after 7-10 days of illness • For dengue NS1 Ag- during the first 5 days of the illness
Sample type/volume/container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood/Serum • 2 ml of whole blood, 1 ml of serum (0.5 ml minimum) should be collected into a clean (preferably sterile), dry, screw capped plain plastic tube • Container should be properly labeled
Test availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dengue IgM assay - performed 3 times/week • The Dengue IgG assay – depend on the requirement • Thee NS1 assay - depend on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample can be transported in room temperature if there is no delay. If a delay in transport for >48 hours is anticipated, sample should be stored at +4^oC and transported with ice packs in a cold chain to maintain +4^oC. • Samples later than 48 hours need to separate serum and should be stored at -20^oC -70^oC until transporting to testing laboratory
Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dengue IgM/IgG-results will be available with-in 24-48hours of receiving samples • Dengue NS1 results will be available with-in 4-12hours of receiving the sample

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For Laboratory testing of Ebola virus RNA (out sourcing)

	Description
Testing criteria (PUI)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Elevated body temperature or subjective fever or symptoms, including severe headache, fatigue, muscle pain, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, unexplained hemorrhage AND 2. An epidemiological link within 21 days before the onset of symptoms
Request	<p>A brief history is mandatory</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clinical features: fever, headache, myalgia, hemorrhagic features 2. Travel history to high risk countries (areas) 3. Day of illness that the blood was collected for Ebola virus testing 4. Any other investigations done for other infections; malaria, dengue, etc <p>Fill all the other components of the request form very clearly</p>
Time of sample collection	<p>Preferred between 3-10 days of onset of clinical symptoms.</p> <p>If the onset of symptoms is < 3 days, a specimen collected on a later date may be needed to exclude Ebola virus, if the specimen tests negative.</p>
Sample type/volume/container	<p>For adults: a minimum of 4 mL of whole blood in to a sterile, plastic, screw capped EDTA tube is recommended</p> <p>For paediatric patients: a minimum of 1mL of whole blood (Glass tubes will be rejected)</p> <p>Containers should be properly labelled</p>
Short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Store specimen at 2-8 °C • If expecting any delay of > 72 hours, store at – 70°C
Transport and	Should be transported in triple package

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Human Herpes virus 6 Real time PCR test
Brief guideline for send-out samples

	Description
Request	Very brief history is mandatory, <u>including day of illness / antiviral treatment</u> Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly Container should be properly label
Time of sample collection	Preferred before starting antivirals
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	1. Blood in EDTA tube or plain plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume 2. <u>CSF into sterile plastic disposable tube</u> minimum 300uL 3. Swabs in 2.0mL, Viral Transport Media Please note <u>samples in glass bottles including penicillin bottles with rubber tops may not be accepted for PCR testing</u> Also, heparinized or very low volume samples may not be accepted for testing
Test Availability	The assay is performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2°C to 8°C</u> as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For serological diagnosis of Hepatitis A virus infections

	Description
Available tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HAV IgM• HAV IgG
Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very brief history is mandatory highlighting the indication for testing• Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly
Time of sample collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IgM: With the onset of jaundice in patients with acute hepatitis• IgG: As and when required to test immunity/past infection
Sample type/volume/container	<u>Blood/Serum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ml of whole blood, 1 ml of serum (0.5 ml minimum) should be collected into a clean (preferably sterile), dry, screw capped plain plastic tube• Container should be properly labeled
Test availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The assay is performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample can be transported in room temperature if there is no delay. If a delay in transport for >48 hours is anticipated, sample should be stored at +4⁰C and transported with ice packs in a cold chain to maintain +4⁰C.• Samples later than 48 hours need to separate serum and should be stored at -20⁰C -70⁰C until transporting to testing laboratory

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For serological diagnosis of Hepatitis B and C virus infections

	Description
Available tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HBeAg• Anti HBsAb• Anti HBc IgM• Anti HBc total• Anti HBeAb• HCV Ab• HCV ag-Ab
Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very brief history is mandatory highlighting the indication for testing• Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly
Time of sample collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As and when required
Sample type/volume/container	<p><u>Blood/Serum</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ml of whole blood, 1 ml of serum (0.5 ml minimum) should be collected into a clean (preferably sterile), dry, screw capped plain plastic tube• Container should be properly labeled
Test availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HBsAg, anti HBs Ab, HCV Ab-twice a week• Others-once in 2 weeks• May vary with the volume of samples received
Transport and short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample can be transported in room temperature if there is no delay. If a delay in transport for >48 hours is anticipated, sample should be stored at +4⁰C and transported with ice packs in a cold chain to maintain +4⁰C.• Samples later than 48 hours need to separate serum and should be stored at -20⁰C -70⁰C until transporting to testing laboratory

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Hepatitis B virus DNA real time quantitative PCR, Hepatitis C virus RNA real time quantitative PCR, Hepatitis C virus genotyping PCR
Brief guideline for send-out samples (V 2.0)

	Description
Request	Very brief history is mandatory, <u>including clinical presentation / antiviral treatment/indication for testing</u> Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly Container should be properly label
Time of sample collection	As and when required
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	Blood in EDTA tube, minimum 2mL volume Please note <u>samples in glass bottles including penicillin bottles with rubber tops, samples in plain tubes/serum samples may not be accepted for PCR testing</u> Also, heparinized or very low volume samples may not be accepted for testing
Test Availability	The assay is performed minimum of once per week
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2°C to 8°C</u> as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For serological diagnosis of Hepatitis E virus infections

	Description
Available tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HEV IgM
Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very brief history is mandatory highlighting the indication for testing• Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly
Time of sample collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IgM: With the onset of jaundice in patients with acute hepatitis
Sample type/volume/container	<u>Blood/Serum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ml of whole blood, 1 ml of serum (0.5 ml minimum) should be collected into a clean (preferably sterile), dry, screw capped plain plastic tube• Container should be properly labeled
Test availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The assay is performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample can be transported in room temperature if there is no delay. If a delay in transport for >48 hours is anticipated, sample should be stored at +4⁰C and transported with ice packs in a cold chain to maintain +4⁰C.• Samples later than 48 hours need to separate serum and should be stored at -20⁰C -70⁰C until transporting to testing laboratory

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Hepatitis E virus RNA real time PCR
Brief guideline for send-out samples

	Description
Request	Very brief history is mandatory, <u>including clinical presentation /indication for testing</u> Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly Container should be properly label
Time of sample collection	During the first two weeks of the illness
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	Blood in EDTA tube or plain plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume Please note <u>samples in glass bottles including penicillin bottles with rubber tops, may not be accepted for PCR testing</u> Also, heparinized or very low volume samples may not be accepted for testing
Test Availability	The assay is performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2°C to 8°C</u> as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested

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Herpes Simplex virus and/or Varicella zoster virus Real time typing PCR test

(Qualitative assay)

Brief guideline for send-out samples (V 2.0)

	Description
Request	Very brief history is mandatory, <u>including day of illness / antiviral treatment</u> Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly Container should be properly label
Time of sample collection	Preferred before starting antivirals
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	1. Blood in EDTA tube or plain plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume 2. <u>CSF into sterile plastic disposable tube</u> minimum 300uL 3. Swabs in 2.0mL, Viral Transport Media Please note <u>samples in glass bottles including penicillin bottles with rubber tops may not be accepted for PCR testing</u> Also, heparinized or very low volume samples may not be accepted for testing
Test Availability	The assay is performed minimum of 2 times per week depending on the test volume
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2°C to 8°C</u> as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For Laboratory testing of HSV 1 & 2 IgM/IgG

	Description
Available tests	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HSV 1 & 2 IgM ELISA• HSV 1 & 2 IgG ELISA
Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very brief history is mandatory highlighting the indication for testing• Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly
Time of sample collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depend on the indication• For diagnosis of congenital infection; within 1st month of birth
Sample type/volume/container	<u>Blood/Serum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ml of whole blood, 1 ml of serum (0.5 ml minimum) should be collected into a clean (preferably sterile), dry, screw capped plain plastic tube• Container should be properly labeled
Test availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assays are performed minimum of once/week
Transport and short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample can be transported in room temperature if there is no delay. If a delay in transport for >48 hours is anticipated, sample should be stored at +4⁰C and transported with ice packs in a cold chain to maintain +4⁰C.• Samples later than 48 hours need to separate serum and should be stored at -20⁰C -70⁰C until transporting to testing laboratory

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Human Papilloma virus real time PCR

Brief guideline for send-out samples

	Description
Request	<p>Very brief history is mandatory, <u>including clinical presentation /indication for testing</u></p> <p>Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly</p>
Time of sample collection	As and when required, preferably before starting treatment
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sterile, screw capped container with Viral Transport Medium (VTM) or specific Transport Solution compatible with PCR kit need to be used. <p><u>Biopsies and scrapings of epithelial cells of cervical mucosa, urethra, vagina and posterior wall of the larynx</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place the material into a test tube with the Transportation Solution using a sterile disposable swab, brush or similar tool. Mix thoroughly. • Remove excess liquid from the swab (or other tool) by pressing the swab against the wall of a tube. • Discard the swab or leave the swab inside the tube after breaking it in half at the incision point and securely close the tube <p><u>Semen /Prostatic secretions / saliva</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mix about 300µl sperm with 300µl Transportation Solution and shake it well. If the solution is too viscous, there can be mixed up a 1:2 solution (Sperm: Transportation Solution). <p><u>Urine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centrifuge the urine, and then mix the pellet (about 300µl) with one tube of Transportation Solution.
Test Availability	The assay is performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	<p>At (18-25) °C – up to 2 days; At (2-8) °C – up to 2 weeks; Deliver unfrozen samples to the laboratory for testing in adapted container within 3 to 4 hours.</p>

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Brief guideline for send-out samples
For Laboratory testing of Japanese encephalitis virus IgM

	Description
Testing criteria to be included in request form	History is mandatory highlighting, <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical features suggestive of acute encephalitic syndrome• Date of onset of illness• Any other investigations done (neuro-imaging)• Travel history• JE vaccination history• Fill all the other components of the request form very clearly
Time of sample collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• As soon as patient possible on suspicion
Sample type/volume/container	<u>Blood/Serum</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 ml of whole blood, 1 ml of serum (0.5 ml minimum) should be collected into a clean (preferably sterile), dry, screw capped plain plastic tube <u>CSF</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A minimum of 0.5ml in to a dry, sterile, screw capped plastic container Containers should be properly labeled
Test availability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Performed once/week
Transport and short term storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample can be transported in room temperature if there is no delay. If a delay in transport for >48 hours is anticipated, sample should be stored at +4⁰C and transported with ice packs in a cold chain to maintain +4⁰C.• Samples later than 48 hours need to separate serum and should be stored at -20⁰C -70⁰C until transporting to testing laboratory

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Measles virus – Serological diagnosis (IgM ELISA) & PCR
Brief guideline for send –out samples

	Description
Request	<p>Very brief history is mandatory highlighting the day of illness on which the blood was collected for testing.</p> <p>Fill the other fields in the request form very clearly.</p> <p>Container should be properly labelled.</p>
Time of Sample collection	<p>Serology: from 3rd to 28th day of onset of rash</p> <p>PCR: Within first 5 days of onset of rash</p>
Sample type/Volume/Container	<p>Two types of specimens for each test type.</p> <p>Serology: 3-5 ml of blood into a sterile, dry, screw capped container with/without anti-coagulant/serum/plasma (1mL for infants)</p> <p>PCR: Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs in sterile Viral Transport Medium in labelled screw capped tubes Alternative: Urine (≥ 10mL), Whole blood</p>
Test availability	<p>Serology: Performed every 4th consecutive day</p> <p>PCR: Performed depending on the number of sample received.</p>
Transport and short term storage	<p>Both types of samples should be transported to the laboratory at 2 to 8°C as soon as possible.</p> <p>If any delay, Separated serum: maximum 3 days at 2-8°C Whole blood: Maximum 24 hours at 2-8° C until separation Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs: maximum 48 days at 2-8°C</p>

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Rota Virus Antigen detection by ELISA – Rota virus Surveillance
Brief guideline for send-out samples

	Description
Request	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Name of the hospital2. Date of sample collection and sending3. Patient's name, gender, age4. Brief clinical history including signs and symptoms, duration of illness
Inclusion criteria for the Rota virus Surveillance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Any child under the age of 5 years2. Admitted for treatment of acute watery diarrhoea/gastroenteritis (≤ 14 days duration)3. Admitted to a hospital included in the study (Lady Ridgeway Hospital, Colombo North Teaching Hospital, TH-Peradeniya, TH-Jaffna, TH-Matara, TH-Batticaloa, TH-Anuradhapura, DGH-Nuwara Eliya, DGH-Badulla)
Exclusion criteria for the Rota virus Surveillance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Children with bloody diarrhoea2. Children transferred from another hospital
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	Stool samples Volume – liquid 1mL, solid 3-5g Container – Clean, wide mouthed, screw capped, lid with spoon, plastic, labelled
Test Availability	The assay is performed depending on the requirement
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory <u>at 2°C to 8°C</u> as soon as possible Can store for 8 days at 2-8°C prior to testing Longer storage – store at -20°C

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Rubella virus – Serological diagnosis (IgM ELISA) & PCR

Brief guideline for send –out samples

	Description
Request	<p>Very brief history is mandatory highlighting the day of illness on which the blood was collected for testing. Include MMR vaccination history in children.</p> <p>Fill the other fields in the request form very clearly.</p> <p>Container should be properly labeled.</p>
Time of Sample collection	<p>Serology: Fever/rash: from 3rd to 28th day of onset of rash. CRS: up to 9 months of age</p> <p>PCR: Fever/rash: Within first 5 days of onset of rash. CRS: within first year of life</p>
Sample type/Volume/Container	<p>Two types of specimens for each test type.</p> <p>Serology: 3-5 ml of blood into a sterile, dry, screw capped container without anti-coagulant (1mL in infants)</p> <p>PCR: Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs in sterile Viral Transport Medium in labeled screw capped tubes Alternative: Urine (≥ 10mL), CSF (1mL), Whole blood</p>
Test availability	<p>Serology: Performed every 4th consecutive day</p> <p>PCR: Performed depending on the number of sample received.</p>
Transport and short term storage	<p>Both types of samples should be transported to the laboratory at 2 to 8°C as soon as possible.</p> <p>If any delay, Separated serum: maximum 3 days at 2-8°C Whole blood: Maximum 24 hours at 2-8° C until separation Nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal swabs: maximum 48 days at 2-8°C</p>

MMR:Measles/Mumps/Rubella, CRS:Congenital Rubella Syndrome

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Zika virus infection Testing

Brief guideline for send - out samples (V3.0)

	Description	
Criteria for testing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Signs and symptoms of zika virus with travel history to high risk countries Pregnant females with travel history to high risk countries 	
Request	<p>Very brief history is mandatory highlighting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> clinical features: acute fever, rash, conjunctivitis, headache, myalgia, arthralgia travel history to high risk countries (areas) day of illness that the blood/urine was collected for zika infection testing any other investigations done for viral infections: dengue, chikungunya <p>Fill all the other fields in the request form very clearly.</p>	
Test Method	1.Molecular Testing(Zika -RNA detection by Real time PCR assay, qualitative assay)	1.Serological Testing (Zika IgM antibody ELISA)
Time of Sample collection	<p>1.Blood sample should be collected within first 07 days of illness</p> <p>2.Urine sample should be collected within first 21 days of illness</p> <p>Late blood/ urine samples should not be accepted for the zika virus PCR test</p>	1.Blood sample should be collected after 2-12 weeks of illness/exposure
Sample type/ Volume/ Container	<p>Blood in EDTA tube or plain sterile plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume</p> <p>Heparinized or very low volume samples (< 2 mL) may not be accepted</p> <p>Urine - sterile plastic vial with screw cap or sterile plastic screw cap bottle, 2mL volume</p>	<p>Blood in plain plastic disposable (red top) tube, minimum 2mL volume</p> <p>Container should be properly labeled.</p>
Transport and short term storage	Specimen should be transported to the laboratory at 2 to 8°C as soon as possible, if in delay they may be stored in the refrigerator at 2 to 8°C up to 2 days before being tested	
Test Availability	The assay is performed depending on the requirement	

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