

Dried Blood Spot testing instruction sheet for users

How to take a DBS specimen

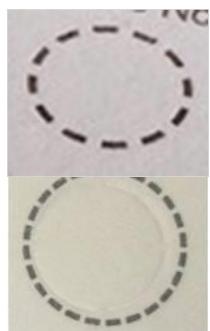


Follow the fingerprick procedure, apply gentle pressure to the finger and allow a large drop of blood to collect at the puncture site. Allow blood to drop onto filter paper. Use drops of blood to fill each circle. Allow the specimen to fully air dry at room temperature. Please make sure the DBS card is dry before folding over the card flap. Please DO NOT PLACE WET CARDS INTO THE SPECIMEN BAG.

The DBS cards used in the laboratory

There are two types of DBS card available which may be distributed by WoSSVC. The cards have five spots indicated by circular dotted lines on a piece of specially made filter paper. One card is perforated and the other is not.

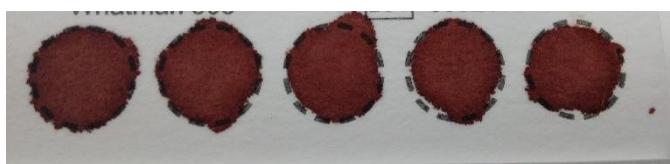
- a) The non perforated cards have five circles marked by circular dotted lines.
- b) The perforated cards have five circles with an indented circle inside the marked dotted line.



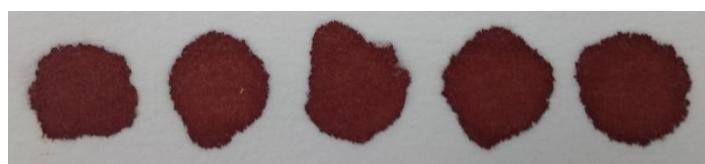
We require ALL five spots to be fully filled up to the **dotted line** (with perforated cards, the blood may stop at the perforated edge). The blood must also be **fully saturated** on the back of the cards.

Ideally we would like **FIVE** fully saturated spots for serology and PCR testing. If you are unable to obtain five good spots then you can send a minimum of three spots to us (two for serology and one for molecular testing) BUT if there are any technical failures in the laboratory we will not be able to re-test the sample.

FRONT of DBS



BACK of DBS



If the sample is NOT fully saturated or the blood is not up to the dotted (perforated) line on the card, it will NOT be tested. The report issued will state: INSUFFICIENT sample.

How to request DBS kits

Please email west.ssvc@nhs.net

DBS kits consist of a DBS card, lancet, plastic specimen bag and freepost label.
Please indicate how many of each product you need.

The laboratory will only send a maximum of 100 cards at any one time, please state what you need and do not over order.

Please highlight in your email if there are any elements of the kit you do not require for example freepost labels can be excluded from kits going to centres where there is a hospital collection van in place. If you already purchase your own lancets then you do not need to ask the laboratory for these.

Sending DBS samples to the laboratory

There are two ways the DBS card and request form can be sent to the laboratory:

- 1) If you have a van service which picks up other specimens for collection the DBS samples can also be sent this way, clearly mark the samples for virology.
- 2) If you do not have a van service the laboratory has set up a freepost license with the post office. The laboratory can supply you with freepost labels. If you are using freepost you must ensure that you are using the correct FREEPOST number or the samples will not be delivered to the virus laboratory (Contact the laboratory to find out more about this service).

Contact details

DBS kit requests: west.ssvc@nhs.net

DBS request forms, please go to the DBS section on our website to download the request form:
<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/about-us/professional-support-sites/laboratory-medicine/laboratory-disciplines/microbiology-and-virology/west-of-scotland-specialist-virology-centre/>

Interpretation of results: west.ssvc@nhs.net or phone 0141 201 8722

Unable to access results: west.ssvc@nhs.net

Technical inquires regarding DBS testing: Samantha.Shepherd@ggc.scot.nhs.uk