

Standard Operating Procedure

Title: Handling and storage of pooled human saliva (commercial source)

PURPOSE

To handle and store pooled human saliva samples as a test matrix for assay development in the laboratory.

RISK ASSESSMENT

Although the pooled human saliva has not been screened for infectious agents, the risk of contracting an infection from the pooled human saliva is low. However, safe handling and the use of proper protective equipment will lower this risk further. The most probable infectious agents that can be communicated from saliva include rhinovirus, influenza virus, Epstein-Barr virus, Type 1 herpes, Strep bacteria, hepatitis B and hepatitis C, and cytomegalovirus. Good laboratory practice should be followed. The pooled human saliva is therefore Biosafety Level I.

MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT

- Commercially sourced pooled human saliva
- -20 °C freezer
- Microcentrifuge tubes
- Micropipette and tips

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) AND CONTAINMENT

PPE such as lab coats and gloves must be worn at all times in the laboratory. Masks in combination with goggles or glasses with solid side shields should be worn whenever eye contamination is reasonable anticipated.

Any breach of the skin (scratch, cut, wound) needs to be protected from contact with biological agents. Cover open wounds, cuts, scratches, and grazes with waterproof dressings and gloves. If you exhibit any open wounds (broken skin) in areas that cannot be covered by dressings or clothing, re-evaluate the work in process. Suggestions for mitigating the exposure in the case of broken skin that cannot be covered include, for example where the wound is on the face, work with a full-face shield; work in the BSC, or have someone else do the work.

HANDLING AND STORAGE

Handle as if capable of transmitting a disease. Wash hands with soap and water after handling pooled human saliva. Do not eat, drink, smoke, apply cosmetics, or handle contact lenses when working with this material. All procedures involving this product must be done in ways that minimize splashing, spraying, splattering, and generation of droplets.

Containers must be sealed when not in use. Store at 4 °C for short term or -20 °C for long term storage.

ACCIDENTAL SPILL/RELEASE MEASURES

Wear PPE when cleaning up spills. Collect spills with absorbent disposable towels. Dispose towels in biological waste and spray down surface with 70% ethanol.