

Standard Operating Procedure

Title: Handling and storage of sheep blood

Purpose

To handle and store sheep blood samples.

Scope

Sheep blood that is commercially available or collected can be potentially hazardous and contain infectious materials.

General laboratory safety guidelines are to be followed when handling and storing sheep blood.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Containment

PPE such as laboratory coats, safety goggles, and gloves should be worn at all times in the laboratory while handling sheep blood, since the blood could contain potentially infectious material. Hands should be washed with antimicrobial soap after removing gloves.

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.

Sample Handling

- 1.1 Sheep blood should be stored from 2-8 °C in a biosafety level 1 refrigerator, and away from heat and light.
- 1.2 Sheep blood should not be frozen.
- 1.3 Wipe down the outside of the sample vial with 70% ethanol.
- 1.4 Pipette blood into a fresh microcentrifuge tube/ other container as per downstream requirements.
- 1.5 Sheep blood should be returned to 2-8 °C storage after use.

Disposal and Decontamination

Sheep blood and contaminated waste must be disposed of into designated biohazard waste containers. All waste and unused material should be autoclaved for at least 30 minutes.