

QUANTIFERON®-TB GOLD Plus (QFT®-Plus)

COLLECTION UPDATE

February 9, 2022

Effective immediately, Pacific Diagnostic Laboratories (PDL) will be providing the QFT®-Plus Blood Collection tube kit for the LAB9907 QuantiFERON®-TB Gold Plus (QFT®-Plus) test. This is in place of the 10 mL lithium-heparin tubes which are currently not available.

QFT®-PLUS BLOOD COLLECTION TUBE KIT

The QFT®-Plus Blood Collection tube kit includes:

- QuantiFERON Nil Tube (gray cap, white ring)
- QuantiFERON TB 1 Tube (green cap, white ring)
- QuantiFERON TB 2 Tube (yellow cap, white ring)
- QuantiFERON Mitogen (purple cap, white ring)
- QFT Blood Collection Tubes package insert



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I request the QFT®-Plus Blood Collection tube kit?

QFT®-Plus Blood Collection tube kits are available through PDL Client supply. You can also contact your PDL sales representative.

Can I use the 10 mL lithium-heparin tube if I still have some available?

Yes. If you have some 10 mL lithium-heparin tubes, you can continue to use these for this testing. Be sure the tube is not expired before use and ensure to collect at least 5 mL of blood.

Can I use two smaller lithium-heparin tubes?

No. The FDA requirements of this test only allows for use of a lithium-heparin tube in a single collection (volume must be 5 mL or greater) or the QFT®-Plus Blood Collection tube kit. Smaller sized lithium-heparin are not acceptable.

If my office does the blood collection, do we need to incubate the tubes?

PDL is requesting that the QFT®-Plus Blood Collection tube kit is drawn and submitted to PDL the same day. The QFT®-Plus tubes are stable at room temperature for up to 16-hours before incubation is required but we highly recommend the specimens be sent as soon as possible after collection to reduce the risk of errors with the testing.

If my office does not do blood draws, is there anything I need to do?

No action is needed. The PDL Patient Service Centers will ensure the correct collection is done.

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT PDL CLIENT SERVICES AT 805-879-8100

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QFT®-PLUS BLOOD COLLECTION STEPS

CAREFULLY FOLLOW THE COLLECTION KIT INSTRUCTIONS THAT COME WITH THE KIT TO AVOID SPECIMEN REJECTIONS/ERRONEOUS RESULTS

1. **Gather all (4) of the collection tubes for the draw.** The tubes should be at room temperature 17–25°C (62.6–77°F) at the time of blood collection.

2. **For each patient, collect 1 ml of blood by venipuncture directly into each of the QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes.**

a. As 1 ml tubes draw blood relatively slowly, keep the tube on the needle for 2–3 seconds once the tube appears to have completed filling. This will ensure that the correct volume is drawn.

b. The black mark on the side of the tubes indicates the validated range of 0.8 to 1.2 ml. If the level of blood in any tube is outside of the indicator mark, a new blood sample should be obtained.

PLEASE NOTE:

**SPECIMENS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO PDL
THE SAME DAY AS COLLECTED.**

Important: Under- or over-filling of the tubes outside of the 0.8 to 1.2 ml range may lead to erroneous results

c. If a “butterfly needle” is being used to collect blood, a “purge” tube should be used to ensure that the tubing is filled with blood prior to the QFT-Plus Blood Collection tubes being used.

d. If using QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes outside altitude ranges between 2650 and 3350 feet (810 and 1020 meters) or above 6150 feet (1875 meters), or if low blood draw volume occurs, users can:

- Collect blood with a syringe, and immediately transfer 1 ml to each of the 4 tubes.
- For safety reasons, this is best performed by removing the syringe needle, ensuring appropriate safety procedures, removing the caps from the 4 QFT-Plus Blood Collection Tubes and adding 1 ml of blood to each (to the black mark on the side of the tube label which indicates the validated range of 0.8 to 1.2 ml).
- Replace the caps securely and mix as described below. Ensure each tube (Nil, TB1, TB2 and Mitogen) is identifiable by its label or other means once the cap is removed.

3. **Immediately after filling the tubes, shake them ten (10) times just firmly enough to make sure the entire inner surface of the tube is coated with blood.** This will dissolve antigens on the tube walls.

Important: Over vigorous shaking may cause gel disruption and could lead to aberrant results.

4. **Label the specimens. Keep at room temperature for transport.** The tubes must be submitted to PDL the same day as collected (within 16 hours of collection).

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