

Appendix F: Preparing and Running a Blank MTM Sample



Following a positive COVID-19 patient result on the GeneXpert, you will be instructed by the Positive Results Hotline team to run a blank MTM sample on the GeneXpert. This is done to reduce the risk of false positive results (due to device contamination).

Prepare your work bench with:

- ✓ Clean bluey or terry wipe
- ✓ Blank MTM transport tube (no swab required)
- ✓ Xpert Xpress SARS-CoV-2 test cartridge
- ✓ Xpert pipette (300uL), provided with cartridge

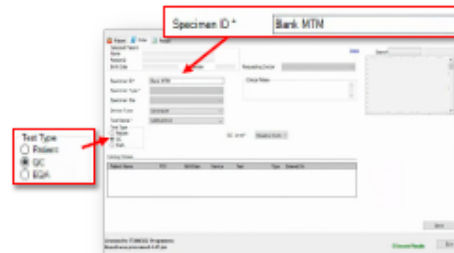
A. Preparing a Blank MTM Sample

1. Check cartridge expiry date and label both the cartridge and MTM transport tube with 'Blank MTM'.
2. Wearing clean gloves, using the Xpert pipette from the cartridge box, transfer 300ul of liquid directly from the blank MTM transport tube into the SARS-CoV-2 test cartridge. No swab is required for this process.
3. Dispose of pipette into clinical waste. Replace the cap on the MTM tube with remaining fluid.
4. Dispose of gloves and perform hand hygiene
5. Wearing clean gloves, close the cartridge lid. Dispose of gloves and perform hand hygiene.



B. Ordering a Test for a Blank MTM Sample

1. With clean un-gloved hands, open ONDAS by double-clicking the bumble bee icon in your task bar. Open the ONDAS Order screen.
2. Select the QC button under Test Type.
3. Edit the Specimen ID to 'Blank MTM'.
4. Select the Test Name as 'SARS-COV2'.
5. Select the QC level as 'Negative Control 1'.
6. Click Save.
7. Test order should appear in the Waiting Orders table.

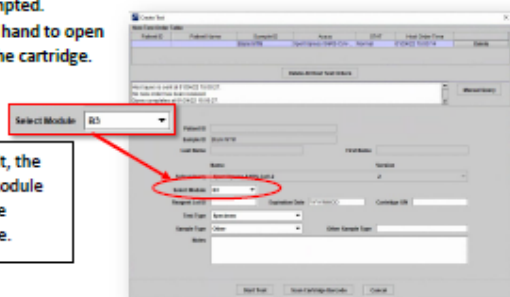


C. Finishing the Test Order in the GeneXpert Dx Software

1. Open the GeneXpert Dx software and click on Create Test.
2. Select the MTM test order from the Host Test Order Table.
3. Click the Select Module dropdown box and select the module that the hotline team has specified (refer below).
4. Click Scan Cartridge Barcode and scan the barcode of the cartridge you have prepared.
5. Click Start Test and enter your GeneXpert login when prompted.
6. Load the cartridge, remembering to use a clean un-gloved hand to open and close the module door, and a gloved hand to pick up the cartridge.

Selecting a Specific Module for Testing

When running a blank MTM following a positive patient result, the positive results hotline team may specify which GeneXpert module they would like you to run the test on. This can be done in the GeneXpert Dx software before scanning the cartridge barcode.



D. Confirming the Blank MTM result is NEGATIVE

Check the Blank MTM test result in the GeneXpert Dx software and confirm it is NEGATIVE.

If the blank MTM gives a POSITIVE or PRESUMPTIVE POSITIVE result or if the test is unsuccessful, cease patient testing and call the Positive Results Hotline again.