

Collection Procedure for Quantiferon-TB PLUS blood:

- It is important for the appropriate blood volume (1 mL) to be collected into each tube.
- The proper order of draw (grey, green, yellow and purple) should be followed
- The tubes should be gently inverted 10 times to ensure the entire inner surface is coated with blood. This allows for complete mixing with the antigens coated on the tube walls
- It is critical that the tubes are kept at room temperature. Do **NOT** refrigerate or freeze the blood samples.
- Finally, the tubes should be delivered to Northwell Labs in time so that the incubation step can be started within 16 hours of collection.



Blood Collection

Note: All collection tubes need to be at room temperature (17–27°C) at the time of draw.

A. Directly into 4 Tube QuantiFERON-TB Gold Plus Kit (Preferred)

1. Collect 1 mL of blood into each of 4 tubes.
 - **Tubes fill slowly.**
 - Use of a syringe may ensure correct blood volume.
 - When the tube is upright, blood must meet the small black mark on the label.
 - If butterfly needle is used, first collect other required tubes or use a “purge” tube to remove the air and then proceed with collecting the QTB tubes.
 - These tubes are manufactured to draw 1 mL of blood and perform optimally within the range of 0.8 to 1.2 mL. If the level of blood is outside of the black indicator line, another blood specimen should be collected (see figure 1).
2. Immediately shake the tubes firmly 10 times (see figure 2).
 - Entire inner surface of tubes must be coated with blood.
 - **Overly energetic shaking may cause gel disruption and could lead to aberrant results.**
 - Thorough mixing is required to ensure complete integration of the tube's contents into the blood.
3. Label tubes appropriately. The label should be placed below colored Quantiferon band so back window and black marks are visible on all 4 collection tubes.
4. **Maintain tubes at room temperature (17°C–27°C) until incubation. Do not refrigerate or freeze.**
5. Incubation of the 4 tubes must be **started within 16 hours of collection.**



Figure 1. Under- or over-filling of the tubes outside of the 0.8 mL (bottom of black mark) to 1.2 mL (top of black mark) range may lead to erroneous results. Specimens with volumes outside of black mark will be rejected.