**How to Safely Collect Human Saliva**

Human saliva is a bodily fluid that might be contaminated with bloodborne pathogens and it must be treated as a biohazardous material. Individuals will be trained in Universal Precautions, which includes steps to take to minimize the risk of exposure. Individuals will wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), dispose of sharps and pipette tips in accordance with state and federal requirements, and disinfect work areas to minimize contamination. If there is a potential for aerosols or droplet formation, Biosafety Level 2 (BSL-2) practices will be followed (e.g., using a biosafety cabinet).

**Standard Precautions Barrier Protection**

Standard precautions include general safety precautions plus:

1. Gloves will be worn when handling saliva including specimen containers, laboratory instruments, counter tops, and other devices or equipment.
2. Laboratory coats will be worn at all times during sample collection. Plastic aprons may be available for further protection over coat/gown if there is potential for splashing or spraying of saliva.
3. Gloves will be replaced as soon as possible when contaminated and before touching non-contaminated items or surfaces.
4. To protect the mucous membranes, masks and eye protection, face shields, splashguards or biosafety cabinets must be used if aerosols, splashing, or spraying of saliva is anticipated.
5. Hands will be washed thoroughly with soap and water, for at least 30 seconds, following the removal of gloves. An alcohol based hand rub solution may also be used.

**Avoiding Contamination of Samples**

To prevent contamination of saliva samples for DNA analysis, we recommend the following precautions in addition to those recommended for immunoassay testing collection:

1. Employ only single-use materials (e.g., disposable forceps) for sample collection/transfer to prevent possible contamination between research subjects.
2. Those researchers assisting with collections should wear gloves and avoid touching collection device materials and samples. Gloves should be changed after each sample collection.

I have read the procedures above and understand the precautions that I must use when collecting saliva samples.

Researcher Name (please print):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Once signed, this document must remain on file in the Principal Investigator’s laboratory and be available upon request.