

SemenRate Laboratory – COVID 19 update

We are writing to you to let you know that the SemenRate Laboratory is continuing to run throughout this difficult time as a service that will help to ensure the food production chain continues unaffected.

Whilst we already have strict cleanliness and handling protocols in place, we have implemented additional cleaning and disinfection measures for shipping and receiving liquid nitrogen dry shipper tanks and insulated boxes. This is to reduce any unnecessary risk and to protect both our technicians and clients. We ask that you comply with the following measures when receiving or returning samples to the laboratory:

1. Dry Shippers and Nitrogen Tanks

Tanks that arrive at our laboratory will be thoroughly disinfected upon arrival along with any protective packaging they arrive in. Personnel handling the tanks will wear appropriate PPE (gloves etc). Once samples have been removed, tanks and containers will be disinfected again ready for collection by a courier.

If you are using a RAFT Solutions dry shipper to send samples:

- The RAFT team will thoroughly disinfect the outside of the tank and protective casing ready for collection by a courier
- Given that the virus is likely to survive for longer periods on metal/hard surfaces we would suggest any personnel handling the tank wear appropriate PPE (gloves etc)
- When the tank arrives at your site please wipe down the exterior of the tank and shipping container with an appropriate surface disinfectant.
- If the tank is leaving the delivery site to collect samples, please disinfect the tank and casing thoroughly when it arrives or leaves a new site
- If the tank is moved between personnel, it should be disinfected thoroughly.
- To prepare the tank for return to the laboratory please disinfect the outside of the tank and the protective casing thoroughly

2. Insulated Boxes for fresh semen samples

Any insulated boxes that arrive at our laboratory will be thoroughly disinfected upon arrival along with any protective packaging they arrive in and the contents of the box. Personnel handling the boxes will wear appropriate PPE (gloves etc).

If you are using a RAFT Solutions fresh semen kit to send samples:

- The RAFT team will thoroughly disinfect the outside of the insulated box along with its contents before shipping
- We would suggest all personnel handling the insulated box and contents wear appropriate PPE (gloves etc)
- When the box arrives at your site please wipe down the exterior with an appropriate surface disinfectant.
- If the box is leaving the delivery site to collect samples, please disinfect it thoroughly when it arrives or leaves a new site
- If the box is moved between personnel, it should be disinfected thoroughly
- To prepare the insulated box for return to the laboratory please disinfect the outside thoroughly

As we are currently limiting access to our laboratory site to essential technical tasks, we would appreciate if you would give us **minimum 24 hours** warning of samples arriving on site (further advanced notification would be much appreciated) – this will allow us to plan appropriately for receipt and disinfection of equipment as well as

limiting contact with the shipment to essential personnel only. Please notify us by emailing breeding@raftsolutions.co.uk or calling 01765 645893.

Thank you for your cooperation during this time. If you have any queries regarding the service or our processes do not hesitate to get in touch.

With kind regards,

All at RAFT Solutions Ltd