

# DO'S AND DON'TS TO PREVENT CROSS-CONTAMINATION



## DO

- ✔ Use individual or daily aliquots of processing reagents and discard any leftover
- ✔ Keep specimen tubes tightly closed and clean outside prior to mixing or handling
- ✔ Wait 5 minutes after mixing before uncapping a tube and open gently to avoid aerosol generation
- ✔ Pour decontamination reagents slowly down side of tube to prevent splashing
- ✔ Process specimens of known positive patients last within batch
- ✔ Use a splash-proof discard container to avoid production of aerosols



## DON'T

- ✘ Use common beakers or flasks of reagents when processing specimens
- ✘ Touch lip of tube with container during addition of reagents
- ✘ Keep more than one tube open at the same time
- ✘ Place tubes too close to each other in the rack
- ✘ Use positive controls
- ✘ Process laboratory proficiency or quality control strains in same batch as patient specimens
- ✘ Disturb or impede airflow in the biological safety cabinet (BSC)
- ✘ Work in a BSC if uncertain about airflow

