

COVID-19 Specimen Collection Instructions

COVID-19 SPECIMEN COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS

Proper specimen collection is important for diagnosing COVID-19. Please review these detailed specimen collection instructions to ensure appropriate testing.

Test Order: Symptomatic Patient: Coronavirus COVID-19 (COVID NAAT)
Asymptomatic Patient: Coronavirus COVID-19, Asymptomatic (COV ASYMP)

Collection: COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal + Oropharyngeal Collection Kit containing:

- One small flexible tip swab for Nasopharyngeal (NP) collection
- One larger tip swab for Oropharyngeal (OP) collection
- One tube Viral/Universal Transport Medium

IMPORTANT:

- **Due to high demand for collection kits, we are ordering from multiple vendors. Packaging, kit name, transport medium and tube configuration will differ.**
- **It is extremely important that the collection tube is closed appropriately to prevent leaking specimens:**
 - **Break off swab so that it does NOT extend past the rim of the tube.**
 - **Carefully place the cap on STRAIGHT and tighten finger tight.**
 - **Do not cross thread the cap and do not over-tighten, as either will cause leakage.**

All specimens MUST be labeled with all of the following information:

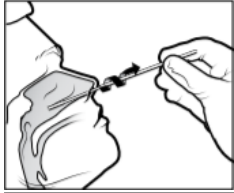
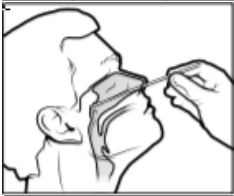
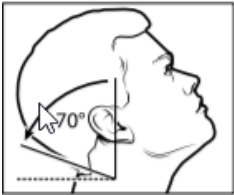
- Patient Name
- MRN or Date of Birth
- Specimen Source (NP+OP)
- Date & Time of Collection
- Collector Initials

*****See next page for specimen collection instructions*****

COLLECT BOTH NASOPHARYNGEAL & OROPHARYNGEAL SWABS AND PLACE BOTH IN SAME VIRAL TRANSPORT MEDIUM TUBE

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab

IMPORTANT: A NP swab is **NOT** a swab of the nares and requires a specific technique to absorb the secretions of the patient's nasopharynx.



1. Remove the small flexible-shafted swab from the collection kit.
2. Patient's head should be reclined 70 degrees from vertical. Infants and young children should be supine. An assistant must hold the infant or child's head immobile.
3. Pass the swab through one nostril and gently along the floor of the nasopharyngeal cavity and septal wall. **The distance from the nose to the ear gives an estimate of the distance the swab should be inserted.**
4. Gently rotate the swab and leave in the nasopharynx for **10-15** seconds to absorb secretions.

NOTE: Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is **not necessary** if the swab is saturated with fluid from the first collection.

5. Place the swab into the tube of Viral Transport Medium and **break swab so it does not extend past the rim of the tube.**

Oropharyngeal (OP) Swab



1. Use larger swab from the collection kit to swab the posterior pharynx, avoiding the tongue.
2. Place swab **into the same tube of Viral Transport Medium** and **break swab so it does not extend past the rim of the tube.**
3. Tightly cap, label (**write source as NP+OP**), refrigerate, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible.