



*This information has been shared with out-of-scope staff within the Saskatchewan Health Authority on March 22, 2020.*

Please be advised that the Saskatchewan College of Paramedics and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan have approved the addition of Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collection to the current Primary Care Paramedic (PCP), Intermediate Care Paramedic (ICP), Advanced Care Paramedic (ACP) and Critical Care Paramedic (CCP) scope of practice for pandemic purposes only.

The College will require that Paramedic NP/OP specimen collection meet the following criteria:

- Both the AHA and the SHA will identify those paramedics targeted for NP/OP specimen collection training; only these trained individuals will be permitted to perform this skill.
- Ambulatory services will identify specimen collection teams that will have dedicated paramedic resources to perform NP/OP swabbing.
- Paramedics designated for NP/OP specimen collection will not be permitted to work in the EMS ambulance environment concurrently. Prior to resuming work in the ambulance environment, paramedics must follow proper IPC process which includes a uniform change. This approach is intended to address the following:
  - To limit the potential exposure to sick, immunocompromised, or other patients who are high-risk individuals who may call 9-1-1.
  - To ensure that the 9-1-1 system is not further stressed by ambulances being taken out of service to provide testing.

All paramedics performing NP/OP swabbing would be required to follow the AHA and SHA guidelines on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Current practice standards require that all paramedics be trained in the use of PPE and complete a refresher on a regular basis.

**Please note:** This skill cannot be completed until the paramedic has completed the required training package. The training package is currently being worked on and will be ready for implementation sometime this week. Notice will be sent out provincially when the training package is ready for use. **Until notice is sent out, only paramedics with the Community Paramedicine endorsement may perform this skill.**

If you have questions regarding this matter please contact me at [Sherri.Jule@saskhealthauthority.ca](mailto:Sherri.Jule@saskhealthauthority.ca).