

Specimen Collection & Laboratory Testing for COVID-19

Follow the most up to date guidance for testing indications at
Saskatchewan.ca/COVID19

Recommended Specimen: Nasopharyngeal (NP Swab)*

* In cases of severe pneumonia, also submit a lower respiratory specimen (i.e. bronchoalveolar lavage, bronchial wash, endotracheal tube suction, or sputum)



What you will need:

- ◆ Universal/Viral transport Medium (UTM/VTM) & NP swab
- ◆ COVID-19 Pandemic Requisition
- ◆ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for droplet and contact precautions (i.e. gloves, gown, surgical mask, eye protection)



How to Collect an NP Swab:

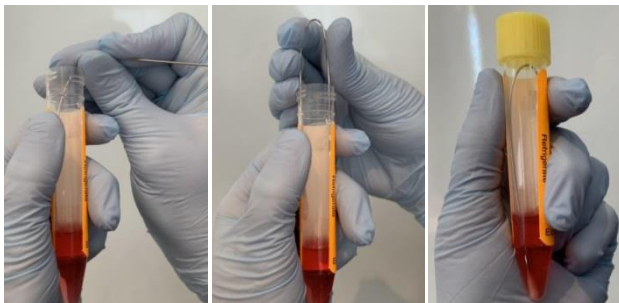


Step 1:

Have the patient incline head to 70 degrees. Insert dry swab straight back (not upwards) until slight resistance is felt. The approximate distance to insert the swab is ½ the distance from the nostril to the earlobe. Rotate swab 2-3 times and hold in place for 5 seconds to allow for maximum absorbency. Remove swab from nostril

Step 2:

If Using NP Swab with Plastic Shaft : Place swab into the transport media and break the shaft of the swab at the break point or cut with a disinfected scissors. Secure lid tightly.



OR

Step 2 **If Using NP Swab with Wire Shaft** :

Place swab into the transport media and bend wire 180° at approximately mid-point of shaft. Carefully place both ends of bent swab into tube with tip fully immersed in media. Secure lid tightly.

Be sure to label all specimens with the patients' Name (First and Last), DOB and Health Services Number (HSN) to ensure electronic patient record alignment of test results

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Completing COVID-19 Pandemic Requisition

- ◆ Indicate full name, HSN, and DOB, gender, complete address and phone number in patient information box (eg. Patient Name and Address box) to ensure test results are aligned in electronic patient record
- ◆ Indicate name and location of testing or assessment site where specimen is being collected
- ◆ Indicate collection date and time
- ◆ Indicate ordering health care provider including complete address, phone and fax number
- ◆ Indicate if additional copies of patient report are required (eg. Public Health, Employee Health, other physicians)
- ◆ Indicate prioritization, test indications (symptomatic or asymptomatic)

Refer to Work Standard: Completing Requisitions for COVID-19 Testing Requests

Testing for **Influenza A/B/RSV** can be performed on the same specimen.

Prepare Specimen for Transport

1. Place labelled specimen inside a Biohazard bag (or any plastic zippered bag) with absorptive material
2. Place completed requisition into rear pouch of Biohazard bag (or outside plastic bag)
3. Deliver to nearest laboratory as soon as possible. Keep specimens cool (refrigerate) until they are transported
4. If you use lab totes (including all peripheral labs and collection centres): Secure zipper with **YELLOW** zip tie or affix a yellow label for rapid identification as a **STAT** specimen



Patients suspected of COVID-19 must self-isolate or be placed on droplet/contact precautions if they are admitted to hospital or reside in long term care.

If you have any questions relating to testing, please contact the Microbiologist on-call:

Roy Romanow Provincial Laboratory: 306-798-1234

Regina & South: 306-766-4444 (switchboard)

Saskatoon & North: 306-655-1000 (switchboard)

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