UCSF Medical Center
Institute for Nursing Excellence

PRACTICE UPDATE

COVID-19 RNA Test Specimen Collection – UPDATE 4/3/2020

What's Changing?

- COVID-19 RNA test specimens now require a **Pooled NP/Mid-Turbinate & OP swab specimen**
- APeX order = 'Pooled NP/OP' swab
- 1 swab—collect oral & nasal specimen using same swab

What Test Kit to Use?

- We may continue to see different test kits based on availability of supplies
- ANY of the below test kits are acceptable & have been validated by UCSF micro lab

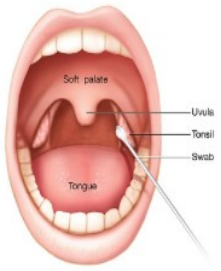
Why the Change?

UCSF in-house testing of all swab and collection site combinations shows highest yield with NP/Mid-Turbinate & OP combined swab. All swab types equivalent.

Test Kit	Collection Instructions
• **Single Flocked Swab with 3mL Transport Media** 	1. Collect OP sample. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect NP sample. 3. Place in vial, breaking off excess shaft. Close vial. 4. Label vial (label from Lab Collect), send to lab.
• **Single Flocked Swab with 3mL CLEAR Media** + **OR** **OR** **Synthetic Swab**	1. Collect OP sample. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect NP/Mid-Turbinate sample. 1. Place in vial, breaking off excess shaft. Swab needs to be pushed into vial until it bends to break at score. Close vial. 4. Label vial (label from Lab Collect), send to lab.
• **BD Universal Viral Transport (220221) with Synthetic standard swab(s)(220239)** 	1. Collect OP sample. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect NP/Mid-Turbinate sample. 3. Place in vial, breaking off excess shaft. Close vial. 4. Label vial (label from Lab Collect), send to lab. *IF kit has 2 swabs—use 1 swab for OP sample and 1 swab for NP/Mid-turbinate sample. Place BOTH swabs in same vial.

OP Collection: Swab the posterior pharynx near tonsils, avoiding the tongue, sides of mouth, and teeth.

NP/Mid-Turbinate Collection: Tilt head 70°. Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate, gently rotating the swab inward until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates. Rotate the swab a few times against the nasopharyngeal wall (approx. 10 sec).

Thick Swab = Mid-Turbinate collection

Thin Swab = NP Collection