COVID-19 RNA Test Specimen Collection – UPDATE 12/21/2020

What's Changing? Post-admission asymptomatic COVID-19 testing is now recommended for the following scenarios:

1) Day 4 of admission
2) Patients receiving frequent or continuous AGPs: test weekly
3) Adult patients in shared room: test every M/Th

Inpatients requiring repeat COVID-19 testing will have the repeat test performed using **anterior nares swab specimens.**

Initial admission/pre-procedure/anesthesia/procedural sedation COVID-19 RNA test specimens should be a **Pooled NP/Mid- Turbinate & OP swab specimen** with repeat tests being anterior nares specimens.

What Test Kit to Use?

We may continue to see different test kits based on availability of supplies.

ANY of the test kits picture on page 3 of this practice update are acceptable and have been validated by UCSF micro lab for:
- Anterior Nares
- Pooled NP/Mid-Turbinate & OP swab specimens

Why the Change?: To better identify COVID-19 infections that were incubating on admission and to prevent transmission in the hospital, the Health System has instituted routine inpatient re-testing for asymptomatic patients on day 4 after admission and for patients undergoing Aerosol Generating Procedures (AGP) Q 7 days. For adult patients in shared rooms, they will also be tested every Monday and Thursday. For repeated testing, anterior nares testing has excellent sensitivity.
- See the table below for guidance for anterior nares testing frequency
- For details on the adult patients refer to this this [FAQ](#) and for pediatric patients this [FAQ](#)

Population	Admission	Hospital Day #4	Hospital Day #7	Subsequent
Asymptomatic, no AGPs	✓ Exceptions—see "COVID recovered" as per below	✓ Exceptions-- day of discharge, baby <=28 weeks corrected gestational age, has current COVID-19 infection, "COVID recovered" as per below		Retest if needing anesthesia/procedural sedation and last test > 7 days prior
Asymptomatic, frequent/continuous AGPs[1]	✓	✓	✓	Weekly. Retest if needing anesthesia/procedural sedation and last test > 7 days prior
Adult Units only: Asymptomatic, shared room, +/- AGPs	✓	✓	Every Monday and Thursday starting ≥ 2 days after day 4 test	
COVID-19 recovered and ≤90 days since first positive COVID-19 test collected ("COVID recovered")	No asymptomatic testing recommended			

1. For a list of AGPs refer to this [guidance](#). This would also include patients with tracheostomies and laryngostomas given their need for suctioning and possibility of other AGPs.

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Pooled OP and NP/Mid-Turbinate Collection Technique

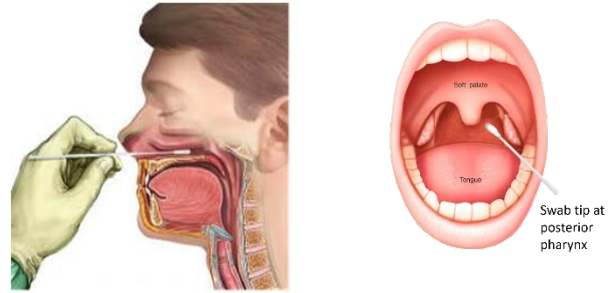Specimen Collection Instruction Videos Posted on HEIP COVID-19 Page

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Apex Order: The order instruction will indicate that the specimen is collected as a Pooled OP and NP/Mid-Turbinate specimen collection and document the method of collection.

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
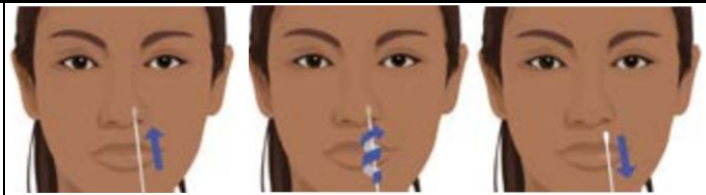> **Thin Swab** = NP Collection

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Anterior Nares Collection

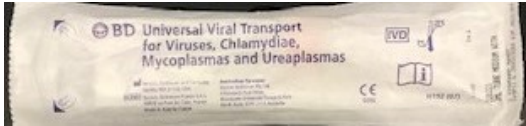Specimen Collection Instruction Flyer posted on Clinical Laboratory Page

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Apex Order: If the patient is asymptomatic and has had a prior COVID-19 test from this admission, the order instruction will indicate that the specimen is collected from the anterior nares.

- The order for the test on hospital day #4 will be automated as part of the admission order set.

Anterior Nares Collection: Insert the swab approximately ¾ inches into the nostril (naris). Rotate the swab against the inner front wall of the nasal cavity for approximately 10 seconds. Using the same swab, repeat in the other nostril.

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Test Kit	Collection Instructions
Single Flocked Swab with 3mL Transport Media	**Pooled OP and NP/Mid-Turbinate Collection** 1. Collect OP sample. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect NP/Mid-Turbinate sample. **Anterior Nares Sample** 1. Collect AN sample from one nostril. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect sample from other nostril. For either specimen, then: 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**	**Pooled OP and NP/Mid-Turbinate Collection** 1. Collect OP sample. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect NP/Mid-Turbinate sample. **Anterior Nares Sample** 1. Collect AN sample from one nostril. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect sample from other nostril. For either specimen, then: 3. 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)	**Pooled OP and NP/Mid-Turbinate Collection** 1. Collect OP sample. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect NP/Mid-Turbinate sample. **Anterior Nares Sample** 1. Collect AN sample from one nostril. 2. Using **SAME SWAB**, collect sample from other nostril. For either specimen, then: 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.