

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Lab Testing Guidance

March 13, 2020

If testing for COVID-19 will be performed, notify the Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) department (available 24/7 on call) before collection.

When sending out COVID-19 testing to a commercial lab, **1 Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab*** must be collected on a **Viral Transport Media (VTM) swab**:

**Must be a true nasopharyngeal collection. Do not swab just nares, nose, or nasal cavity.*



VTM (collection device used for RVP)

To place the order:

1. Select "COVID-19"
2. Specimen source and type will default to Nasopharyngeal and Swab. No other specimens should be ordered.
3. This order is "unit collect" only. Phlebotomy cannot collect specimens for COVID-19.

COVID-19 - 2019 Novel Coronavirus

Priority: Routine

Frequency: ONE TIME 1 Time

Starting: 3/13/2020 Today Tomorrow At: 1544

First Occurrence: **Today 1544**

Scheduled Times [^](#)

03/13/20 1544

Class: Unit Collect

Specimen Src: Nasopharyngeal

Specimen Type: Swab

Comments: [+ Add Comments \(F6\)](#)

Reference Links: 1. [Test Information](#) 2. [Test Catalog](#)

Add-on: No add-on specimen found

[Next Required](#) [Link Order](#)

After collection:

Place the collected sample into a biohazard bag and walk them to the Lab within 1 hour of collection time. **Do NOT send specimens through pneumatic tube system.**