

UNITYPOINT HEALTH - MERITER LABORATORIES
TEST ANNOUNCEMENT
Addition of Collection Kit for Routine SARS/Flu Testing

02/04/2022

Effective Friday February 4, 2022, we will begin to distribute new collection kits to be used for **routine** SARS-CoV-2/Flu testing. The collection kits can only be used on our Panther testing platform and are not compatible with STAT or RSV testing. Please see attached sheet for instructions for use.

Current viral transport media (VTM) should still be used for SARS-CoV-2/FLU/**RSV** and **STAT** testing.

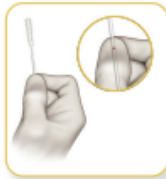
If you have any questions, please call the UnityPoint Health - Meriter Laboratories Client Services Department at 608-417-6529 or 1-800-236-0465.

Hologic® Direct Load Capture Cap Collection Kit- FLOQSwabs®

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Clinician collection procedure guide*

For COVID testing with nasopharyngeal swab specimens



Partially peel open the swab package. Remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. If the soft tip is touched, laid down, or dropped, discard and get a new Hologic Direct Load Capture Cap Collection Kit - FLOQSwabs®. **Hold swab, placing thumb and forefinger in the middle of shaft covering red score line.** Do not hold shaft below score line.



Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees. Gently and slowly insert swab through the nostril parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient, indicating contact with the nasopharynx. Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear. Gently rub and roll the swab.



Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions. Slowly remove swab while rotating it.

Note: Specimens can be collected from both sides using the same swab, but it is not necessary to collect specimens from both sides if the swab is saturated with fluid from the first collection. If a deviated septum or blockage creates difficulty in obtaining the specimen from one nostril, use the same swab to obtain the specimen from the other nostril.



While holding swab in hand, unscrew tube cap. Do not spill tube contents. If tube contents are spilled, discard and replace with a new Hologic Direct Load Capture Cap Collection Kit - FLOQSwabs®.

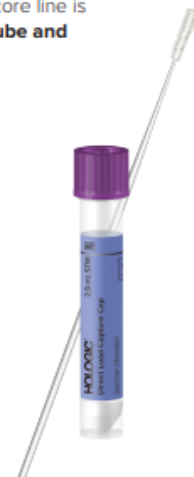


Immediately place swab into transport tube so black score line is at top of tube. **Align the score line with top edge of tube and carefully break shaft.** Discard top portion of shaft.



Tightly screw cap onto tube. When collecting multiple specimens from the same patient, the tube label provides a specimen source field for unique identification for specimen location.

Specimens in the Hologic Direct Load Capture Cap tube may be stored at 2°C to 30°C up to 6 days.



* Hologic provides this collection procedure guide as a general informational tool only; it is not an affirmative instruction or guarantee of performance. It is the sole responsibility of the clinician to read and understand the appropriate package insert and comply with applicable local, state and federal rules and regulations.

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Please note swab is to be left in the transport tube and must be broken at score mark so it can be removed aseptically before testing.