Mid-turbinate Nasal Collection for COVID-19 testing

St Luke's

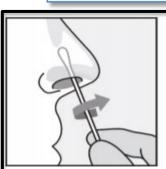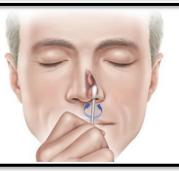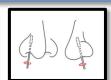| **TITLE**: **UPDATE** Mid-turbinate <u>both nostrils</u> NASAL Collection for COVID-19 testing	
LOCATION: System-wide	**Audience:** All sites / All ages – collecting Nasal COVID-19 specimens
EFFECTIVE DATE: September 10, 2021	**CONTACT**: Obiageli Ozumba <ozumbao@slhs.org>
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RATIONALE: Recent Best Practice guidelines for Mid-turbinate Nasal collections indicate that both patient nostrils should be swabbed in order to capture high levels of viral particles.	

Priority 1 Dry sterile container

Priority 2 Hologic

NOTE: It is recommended that symptomatic patients clear their sinus cavities of mucous prior to collection. Excessive mucous my interfere with testing and result in testing failures and increased turn-around-time (TAT).

1) Tilt patient's head back to 70 degrees.

2) Carefully insert the swab into the first nostril until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril).

3) Rotate swab against the mucosa 4 to 5 times while applying either internal or external pressure against the side of the nose.

4) **Using the same swab, carefully insert the swab into the second nostril** less than one inch into the nostril. Rotate swab against the mucosa 4 to 5 times while applying either internal or external pressure against the side of the nose and remove from nostril.

5) After the swab is removed from the patient:
   - ❖ **Priority 1** – Place the full swab into the dry sterile container **orange** or **blue** top at right.
   - ❖ **Priority 2** – Hold the swab shaft close to the rim of the tube. Break the applicator shaft at the colored breakpoint indication line.

6) Ensure cap is tightly sealed. All should not use parafilm to seal any of the test collection tubes containing fluid.

7) Label the tube, place in biohazard bag with absorbent pad and transport to the Laboratory.