

Respiratory Specimen Collection Guide for Laboratory Testing

Covid- ED/IP/*STAT Outpatient collection

Nasopharyngeal (NP) or Mid-Turbinate Collection

Storage: **Room Temperature**

Place NP swab into dry sterile container. If using the blue conical tube, to make sure to break the applicator shaft off at line. **Send specimen to the Lab STAT Testing must be completed within 1 hour of collection.** Refrigerated: NA Frozen: NA



PPE: Contact Transmission
Gloves, Eye Protection,
Mask, Gown.

*Outpatient STAT collections at sites not performing Abbott ID Now will Route to Core lab with 24-48 hr. turn around time.

Covid- *Outpatient Infant patients unable to tolerate Mid-Turbinate collection.* Based on clinical judgement

UTM and Nasopharyngeal swab

Order Priority 2 as per usual

Storage: Room Temperature transport to the lab as soon as possible within 24 hours

Refrigerated 2-8°C recommended following collection and while in transit.

Frozen:30 days

PPE: Contact
Transmission:
Gloves, Eye
Protection,
Mask, Gown.



Influenza and RSV

Quidel/Copan Flexible mini-tip flocced Nasopharyngeal swab and UTM.

Storage: Room Temperature/Refrigerated (Room Temperature preferred)

RSV: 8 hours

Influenza A/B: 72 hours

PPE: Contact
Transmission:
Gloves, Eye
Protection,
Mask, Gown.



Covid- Routine Outpatient collection

Hologic Direct Load Tube with Hologic Swab

No NP swabs acceptable in this tube

Storage: Room Temperature or Refrigerated 2-30°C up to 6 days

PPE: Contact
Transmission:
Gloves, Eye
Protection,
Mask, Gown.



Rapid Respiratory Panels

UTM and Nasopharyngeal swab

Storage: Room Temperature transport to the lab as soon as possible within 24 hours

Refrigerated 2-8°C recommended following collection and while in transit.

Frozen:30 days

PPE: Contact
Transmission:
Gloves, Eye
Protection,
Mask, Gown.



MRSA- Nasal

Liquid Amies- **White** top eSwab with included swab.

Storage: Room Temperature transport to the lab as soon as possible within 2 hours

Refrigerated 2-8°C for 48 hours
Frozen:30 days

PPE – Oropharyngeal (OP) or Anterior Nares collection. Gloves and Mask



Rapid Strep A Throat- Double Swab Liquid Stuart Media

Collect using both swabs.

Room Temperature transport to the lab as soon as possible

Storage: Room Temp storage: 24 hours

Refrigerated 2-8°C for 48 hours

PPE – Oropharyngeal (OP) or Anterior Nares collection. Gloves and Mask



Updated 10/16/2023

Contact Shannon Preece preece@slhs.org with questions or concerns

Point of Care Testing-Use only swab included in test kit. Follow test kit instructions for collection