

COVID-19 Lab Collection Tip Sheet

Lab Tests Required for COVID-19

The SARS-COV-2 NAAT orderset includes COVID-19 and a respiratory viral panel (RVP) if not done in the last 48 hours. Positive RVP results do not result in cancellation of COVID-19 testing. Healthcare workers will only be tested for COVID-19.

Materials Needed:

1 swab for NP collection
1 tube of M6, M4-RT, or other lab-approved viral transport media



Examples of swabs and viral transport media

Acceptable Swabs and Viral Transport Media:

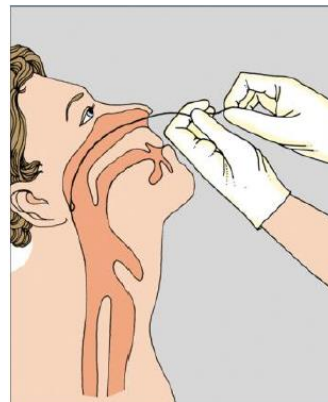
No. 59024 Sterile Swab Media Applicator Tip flocked with nylon fiber
No. 63252 Sterile Swab Applicator Tip flocked with nylon fiber, nasopharyngeal
No. 64758 M6
No. 64758 Item # R12506 M4-RT Transport Media
Other media If approved by Clinical Laboratory

Proper Specimen Collection

The quality of the specimen collection is critical, and the correct collection of the specimen is directly linked to the sensitivity of the test. Collect one NP swab for both the RVP and COVID-19 tests. Follow these steps.

1. Perform hand hygiene before and after patient encounter.
2. Don appropriate PPE.

3. If the patient has nasal congestion or a moderate-large amount of rhinorrhea, ask them to clear their nose into a tissue.
4. Tilt their head back slightly (70 degrees) and ask them to close their eyes, if possible.
5. Insert the swab into the nostril parallel to the palate until resistance is met by contact with the nasopharynx.
6. Leave swab in place for 2-3 seconds then rotate completely around for 10-15 seconds. Note: Although not painful, patients generally feel very uncomfortable with this procedure. Be prepared for them to pull their head and/or body away. This procedure may also generate a cough so prepare to move to the side if possible, especially after completing the process.
7. Remove swab and repeat the same process in the other nostril with the same swab.
8. After the second swab is completed, immediately place into the sterile vial containing the universal transport media.
9. Ensure that cap is closed tightly and label is on tube.
10. Place the tube into a biohazard bag.



Transport

Please walk specimens to Clinical Laboratory, do not use the tube system

Questions

Contact local Clinical Laboratory