

Washington State Department of Health List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing

This chart provides information on which licensed health care providers are authorized under Washington law to administer coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) tests by collecting nasal swab specimens. Providers should consult the information for their profession in the table below and the governing laws and any policies or guidance issued by the regulatory program, board, or commission for their profession. Providers must comply with the standards of practice and any other legal requirements applicable to their profession when collecting nasal swab specimens. If a provider's authorization to collect nasal swab specimens is not permanent but is just in place due to the public health emergency, this is indicated in the Notes column.

Self-ordering tests: Washington law permits individuals to order their own COVID-19 tests, without a health care provider's order or prescription. A laboratory may require a health care provider's order at its discretion, for insurance company payment purposes, or under the Federal Drug Administration's (FDA) requirements for a particular authorized test. Health care providers may collect nasal swab specimens for self-ordered COVID-19 tests, unless otherwise provided.

Observation of self-administered nasal swabs by health care providers: Washington law does not require a licensed health care provider to observe an individual performing their own swab for a COVID-19 test. The FDA may require a licensed health care provider to observe an individual performing their own swab for particular tests. The FDA's Emergency Use Authorization for the specific test being used should be consulted for any such requirements.

Administration of nasal swabs by other qualified individuals: The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has issued a declaration under the federal Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act authorizing some individuals to administer COVID-19 tests, and this authorization overrides any conflicting state law. Under the HHS Secretary's PREP Act declaration, the Washington State Secretary of Health also has authority to authorize additional individuals to administer COVID-19 tests, even where state law does not otherwise permit it.

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Profession	Can Perform Nasopharyngeal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Dental Assistant	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Delegation required. *A dentist may delegate when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is performed under the dentist's close supervision, and • The dental assistant has demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.
Dental Auxiliary – Licensed Expanded Function	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Delegation required. *A dentist may delegate when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is performed under the dentist's close supervision, and • The auxiliary has demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Profession	Can Perform Nasopharyngeal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Dental Hygienist	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Delegation required. *A dentist may delegate when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is performed under the dentist's general supervision, and • The dental hygienist has demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.
Dentist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Profession	Can Perform Nasopharyngeal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Provider	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	<p>Per DOH policy, EMS personnel may perform nasopharyngeal and less invasive swabs during the declared COVID-19 emergency provided that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have received medical program director (MPD)-approved specialized training to perform the skill; • Are acting under the medical direction of the county MPD or an MPD delegate physician, such as the local health officer, and a DOH-approved MPD protocol is in place; and • Are acting while operating with a Washington State licensed EMS service; and at the request of local or state public health. <p>*The EMS MPD does not need to be present for EMS providers to conduct the activity.</p>

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Profession	Can Perform Nasopharyngeal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Federal Government Employee, Contractor, or Volunteer	Yes	Determined by authorization of relevant federal department or agency	Yes	Determined by authorization of relevant federal department or agency	Yes	Determined by authorization of relevant federal department or agency	<p>This authorization is provided in the HHS Secretary's Prep Act declaration and is thus temporary.</p> <p>The authorization is effective only if the executive department or agency by or for which the Federal employee, contractor, or volunteer is employed, contracts, or volunteers has authorized or could authorize that individual to administer COVID-19 tests as any part of the duties or responsibilities of that individual.</p>

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Federal Uniformed Service Member	Yes	Determined by authorization of relevant federal department or agency	Yes	Determined by authorization of relevant federal department or agency	Yes	Determined by authorization of relevant federal department or agency	<p>Includes any member of a uniformed service, including members of the National Guard in Title 32 duty status.</p> <p>This authorization is provided in the HHS Secretary’s Prep Act declaration and is thus temporary.</p> <p>The authorization is effective only if the executive department or agency for which the federal service member serves has authorized or could authorize that individual to administer COVID-19 tests as any part of the duties or responsibilities of that individual.</p>
----------------------------------	-----	--	-----	--	-----	--	--

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Home Care Aide	Yes, in specific settings*	Yes	Yes, in specific settings*	Yes	Yes, in specific settings*	Yes	<p>Requires RN delegation and supervision if individual is not able to self-collect specimen. Home care aides must be certified under chapter 18.88B RCW and meet other requirements of RCW 18.79.260 and RCW 18.88B.070.</p> <p>*Delegation permitted only in community-based and in-home care settings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assisted Living Facilities • Adult Family Homes • Residential Homes for individuals with developmental disabilities • In-home settings (temporary or permanent) <p>Does not include acute care or skilled nursing facilities.</p>
----------------	----------------------------	-----	----------------------------	-----	----------------------------	-----	--

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Learn to Return COVID-19 Testing Program Participant	Yes	Depends on DOH requirements for participants	Yes	Depends on DOH requirements for participants	Yes	Depends on DOH requirements for participants	Under the federal PREP Act and the HHS Secretary’s PREP Act declaration, the Washington State Secretary of Health issued a PREP Act authorization providing authority to all participants in DOH’s Learn to Return COVID-19 testing program to administer COVID-19 tests. Participants must comply with DOH’s training requirements, protocols, and other requirements.
Medical Assistant (MA) – Registered and Certified	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes *	Yes	Yes*	Delegation required. * Must be supervised by RN, ARNP, PA, MD, DO, or ND. The requirements for the supervising health care practitioner to be physically present and immediately available in the facility are waived under Governor Inslee’s Proclamation 20-32 through the end of the pandemic state of emergency. The supervisor only has to be immediately available, which may be by remote means.
Naturopathic Physician	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Nurse – Licensed Practical (LPN)	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	* Supervision means initial direction and periodic inspection. Must be supervised by licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, osteopathic physician and surgeon, physician assistant, osteopathic physician assistant, podiatric physician and surgeon, advanced registered nurse practitioner, registered nurse, or midwife.
Nurse – Registered (RN)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Nursing Assistant – Registered and Nursing Assistant – Certified	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Requires delegation and supervision if individual is not able to self-collect specimen.
Nursing Students (Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse Students)	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Requires validation of skill in skills lab. *Only if they have demonstrated this is in their nursing education program. **Must be under direct supervision of RN and/or RN faculty who is on the premises and immediately, quickly, and easily available.

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Nursing Technician	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Requires validation of skill. *Only if they have demonstrated this is in their nursing education program. ** Must be under direct supervision of RN who is on the premises and immediately, quickly, and easily available.
Occupational Therapist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Must be properly trained to perform the test.
Pharmacist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Refer to Pharmacy Commission's Plan 19 (see page 8) for information related to pharmacists ordering, administering, and reporting COVID-19 tests.
Pharmacy Intern	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Requires pharmacist delegation and immediate supervision, as defined in WAC 246-945-001(44).
Pharmacy Technician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Requires pharmacist delegation and immediate supervision, as defined in WAC 246-945-001(44).
Physician - Allopathic (MD)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Physician Assistant	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

Washington State Department of Health
List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing
 August 2022

Physician – Osteopathic	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Podiatric Physician	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Per WAC 246-922-001, podiatric physicians can diagnose and/or treat systemic conditions provided an appropriate referral is made to an authorized health care practitioner.
Respiratory Care Practitioner	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	* All actions within scope of this profession require standing/direct order and medical direction of a health care practitioner. In-person supervision of collection of nasal swab specimen is not required.
Unlicensed School Employees (K-12)	Yes, in K-12 Public and Private Schools	Yes*	Yes, in K-12 Public and Private Schools	Yes*	Yes, in K-12 Public and Private Schools	Yes*	Requires RN delegation, supervision, and training. * Supervision means initial direction and periodic inspection.



DOH 600-089 August 2022

To request this document in another format, call 1-800-525-0127. Deaf or hard of hearing customers, please call 711 (Washington Relay) or email civil.rights@doh.wa.gov.