

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



COVID-19 Testing Guidelines for Washington State Healthcare Providers

This chart provides information on health care providers in Washington state who can conduct a COVID-19 test by collecting a nasal swab. If you're a healthcare provider, please check the rules for your profession in the table below and follow the laws and guidance from your regulatory program, board, or commission. Remember to stick to the rules and standards for your profession and check the Notes column to see if your authorization has any conditions.

Self-ordered tests

People in Washington state can order their own COVID-19 tests without a doctor's order or prescription. However, some labs might ask for a doctor's order for insurance or FDA requirements for specific tests. Healthcare providers can collect nasal swabs for these self-ordered tests, unless otherwise provided.

Observing self-administered nasal swabs

Healthcare providers aren't required to watch a person swab for a COVID-19 test, unless the FDA says it's needed for specific tests. Check the [FDA's guidance](#) for more information.

Administering nasal swabs by other qualified individuals

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has given permission for certain individuals to administer COVID-19 tests until [December 31, 2024](#) – even if Washington state laws don't allow it. This HHS declaration overrules any conflicting state laws.

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



Profession	Can Perform Nasal 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	*Authorized when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is performed under 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	* Authorized when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is performed under dentist's close supervision, and • The auxiliary has demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.
Dental Hygienist	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	*Authorized when: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing is performed under dentist's general supervision, and • The dental hygienist has demonstrated skills necessary to perform the task competently.
Dentist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



Profession	Can Perform Nasal 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 when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have an active Washington state EMS license and are acting at the request of local or state public health officer. • Have received medical program director (MPD)-approved specialized training to perform the skill; and • Are acting under the medical direction of the county MPD/MPD delegate physician (e.g., local health officer) and following DOH-approved MPD protocol <p>*An EMS MPD does not need to be present for EMS providers to conduct the swab,</p>
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>Authorization is provided in the HHS Secretary's Prep Act declaration and is thus temporary and valid until 12/31/2024, unless extended.</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, contacts, 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>

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



Profession	Can Perform Nasal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
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 such as:</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><i>Does not apply to acute care or skilled nursing facilities.</i></p>
Medical Assistant (MA) – Registered and Certified	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes *	Yes	Yes*	* Requires oversight from an RN, ARNP, PA, MD, DO, or ND. The supervisor doesn't have to be physically present but must be easily reachable, possibly through remote methods.
Naturopathic Physician	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



Profession	Can Perform Nasal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Nurse – Licensed Practical (LPN)	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Requires supervision 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. *Supervision means initial direction and periodic inspection.
Nurse – Registered (RN)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Nursing Assistant – Registered and Nursing Assistant – Certified	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Yes	Yes*	Requires registered nurse delegation and supervision if individual is not able to self-collect specimen. *Supervision means initial direction and periodic inspection by the delegating registered nurse.
Nursing Students (Practical Nurse and Registered Nurse Students)	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Requires skill lab validation. *Only if skill has been demonstrated in nursing education program. **Must be delegated by RN and/or RN faculty who are on the premises and immediately available.

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



Profession	Can Perform Nasal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Nursing Technician	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Yes*	Yes**	Requires skill lab validation. *Only if skill has been demonstrated in nursing education program. **Must be delegated by RN and/or RN faculty who is on-site and immediately available.
Occupational Therapist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Must be properly trained to perform test.
Pharmacist	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Pharmacists can order and administer COVID-19 tests under the PREP Act declaration in accordance with the declaration, in addition to their state law authority, until 12/31/2024.
Pharmacy Intern	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under state law, pharmacist delegation and immediate supervision, as defined in WAC 246-945-001(44) , are required. Pharmacy interns can also administer COVID-19 tests under the PREP Act declaration until 12/31/2024.
Pharmacy Technician	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Under state law, pharmacist delegation and immediate supervision, as defined in WAC 246-945-001(44) , are required. Pharmacy interns can also administer COVID-19 tests under the PREP Act declaration until 12/31/2024.

List of Providers Authorized to Collect Nasal Swab Specimens for COVID-19 Testing



Profession	Can Perform Nasal Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal Mid-Turbinate Swab?	Supervision Required?	Can Perform Nasal (Anterior Nares) Swab?	Supervision Required?	Notes
Physician - Allopathic (MD)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
Physician Assistant	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	
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*	*Requires standing/direct order and medical direction of a health care practitioner. In-person supervision 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 300-033 October 2023

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 doh.information@doh.wa.gov.