

Specimen Collection and Submission Instructions

COVID-19

Page 1 of 2

Specimen Type	Collection Time	Collection Frequency	Collection Procedures	Transport Media	Shipping & Handling (S&H)**
Please collect and submit only 1 upper respiratory specimen (NP preferred*). Lower respiratory specimen if patient is intubated					
Nasopharyngeal (NP)* (upper respiratory)	At illness	NA	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collect only using synthetic tip swabs (ex. Dacron, Nylon, Polyester) with non-wooden shaft. 2. Nasopharyngeal swab -- Insert a swab in the nostril parallel to the palate. Leave in place for a few seconds to absorb secretions. 3. Place swab immediately into a sterile tube containing 2-3 mL viral or universal transport media (VTM or UTM) and break off. Seal with parafilm if available. 	VTM or UTM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device: 1 sterile leak-proof container sealed with parafilm. • Transport: Ship cold (2 - 8°C) on ice packs. If previously frozen, ship on dry ice. • Storage: Refrigerate at 2-8°C up to 72 hrs. If arriving at WAPHL ≥ 72 hrs after collection, freeze at ≤ -70°C. • Ship Category B
Any other FDA approved swab (Nasal Swab) (upper respiratory)			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect only using synthetic tip swabs. See step 1 above. • Nasal Swab -- Insert vertically to the first nostril until there is gentle resistance. Leave in for 10-15 seconds and gently rotate it. Repeat on the other nostril with the same swab. See step 3 above. 		
Sputum Bronchoalveolar lavage, tracheal aspirate, pleural fluid other (lower respiratory)			<p>Sputum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have the patient rinse the mouth with water. • Then expectorate deep cough sputum directly into a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum collection cup or sterile dry container. <p>Other lower respiratory specimens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect 2-3 mL in a sterile, leak-proof, screw-cap sputum cup or sterile dry container. • Minimum volume: 2-3 ml. 	NA	

General Rejection Criteria (for additional details, see S&H)

- Unaccepted specimen type.
- Not refrigerated or frozen properly.
- Insufficient specimen volume.
- Leaky specimen.
- Did not obtain LHJ or DOH CDE approval.
- Failure to follow specific shipping and packaging requirements.

NOTE:

Specimens will not be processed until ALL of the following information are provided on requisition form:

- Patient name, patient's county of residence, and second identifier.
- Two matching identifiers on both the tube and the laboratory requisition form.
- Specimen type, date of collection, and test requested.
- Submitter name, address, and telephone/FAX numbers.

Collection kit availability

Not available.

Comments

- Use appropriate infection control precautions when collecting respiratory tract, serum, and stool specimens.
- Serologic testing is currently available only at CDC upon request and approval. Please consult with DOH Office of Communicable Disease Epidemiology for ideal timing of specimen collection for serologic testing. In general, for serologic testing, collect serum during acute symptoms, preferably the first week after onset of illness, and again ≥ 3 weeks later.