

COVID-19 RNA Test Specimen Collection – UPDATE 3/17/20

What's Changing?

- COVID-19 RNA test specimens will now only require **1 NP (Nasopharyngeal) swab**
- APeX order may still state specimen type as 'Pooled NP/OP' swab
- **ONE** specimen (NP swab) for **ALL** respiratory viral tests. This includes:
 - ◇ Respiratory Viral Panel (RVP)
 - ◇ Rapid Influenza / RSV
 - ◇ COVID-19 RNA Qualitative

Why the Change? Updated CDC guidelines

What Test Kit to Use?

- We may continue to see different test kits based on availability of supplies
- EITHER of the below test kits are acceptable for specimen collection.
- Follow instructions for whichever collection kit you have available in your care area.
- OP swab only done if available in kit

Test Kit

- Single Flocked Swab with 3mL Transport Media



****Use Only 1 Kit****

Collection Instructions

1. Open kit and collect NP swab and place in red top vial, breaking off excess shaft. Close vial.
2. Label vial (label from Lab Collect), place additional labels inside bag, send to lab.

- Dual Flocked Swab Kit with 3mL Transport Media



1. Collect NP swab (thin, flexible swab) and place in red top vial, breaking off excess shaft. Close vial.
2. Collect OP (oropharyngeal) swab (thicker swab) and place in SAME red top vial, breaking off excess shaft. Close vial.
3. Label vial, place additional labels inside bag, send to lab.

NP Swab Collection: Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate, gently rotating the swab inward until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates. Rotate the swab a few times against the nasopharyngeal wall (approximately 10 sec) to absorb secretions.

OP Swab Collection: (e.g., throat swab): Swab the posterior pharynx near tonsils, avoiding the tongue, sides of mouth, and teeth.

