
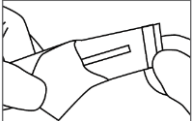



# COVID-19 Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab Collection Guidelines

Due to a global shortage of viral transport medium, 0.9% physiological saline transport tubes have been approved for COVID-19 testing. **The gold standard for COVID-19 testing from the upper respiratory tract is a Nasopharyngeal (NP) swab. Therefore collection kits have been prepared which include a NP swab and a saline transport tube.**

<p><b>NP swab with Saline Transport Medium</b></p>	<p>Supplies needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 Saline kit, including a NP Swab (vendor names may change)</li> <li>• PPE</li> </ul> 
<p>1. Use NP swab to collect a sample from the patient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine which nostril is more patent by instructing the patient to exhale and occlude one nostril at a time.</li> <li>• Then open the package without contaminating the swab.</li> </ul>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Instruct the patient to tilt the head back. The head should be extended to about 70 degrees.</li> <li>• Pass the swab gently through the more patent nostril about 3" to 4" (7.5 cm to 10 cm) into the nasopharynx (as shown), keeping the swab near the septum and the floor of the nose, parallel to the palate. Gently rub and roll the swab and leave it in place for several seconds to <i>absorb secretions before removing it</i>. Take care not to injure the nasal mucous membrane.</li> </ul>  <p>Reference: Lippincott</p> <p><b>NOTE:</b> Please follow your institution's guidelines for safe specimen collection at all times.</p>
<p>2. Place NP swab in saline transport tube</p>	<p>After collecting the specimen, place NP swab in saline tube, breaking off the plastic shaft so that the saline tube lid closes <u>tightly</u>. Transport specimen to the laboratory.</p>