COVID-19 RT-PCR Test (anterior nares)

Healthcare Worker Information

This specimen collection kit is acceptable and must be used ONLY for the collection of LabCorp’s 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) assay [139900] from the anterior nares (nasal collection).

Orders for other respiratory viral testing panels or assays will NOT be accepted when samples are collected using this COVID-19 collection kit. These other respiratory pathogens require collection using an appropriate nasopharyngeal and transport media.

PLEASE NOTE:
Submit only one collection per patient. When collecting the sample, take care not to touch the swab to any surface other than the point of collection. Once collected the entire swab should be immediately placed in the sterile saline container and the screw cap secured tightly.

Sample submission
Label collection tube containing the sample with 2 unique patient identifiers such as name and date of birth and place in biohazard specimen bag. Ensure bag is subsequently sealed.

Freeze following collection when possible.
Submit sample on one laboratory requisition, with test code 139900 – COVID-19. Request must include the patient’s name, gender, race and ethnicity, complete address, phone number, and appropriate diagnosis code. Billing and/or insurance information should be provided on the laboratory requisition including client account number.

To avoid delays in turnaround time when requesting multiple tests on frozen samples, please submit separate frozen specimens for each test requested.

Shipping and Storage
Ship frozen at -20°C (preferred); refrigerated specimens acceptable (if received for testing within 72 hours of collection); room temperature swabs acceptable (if received within 24 hours of collection).

Patient Collection Instructions

1. Take the swab out of its package. Do not touch the tip of the swab with your hands.

2. Screw off the top of the collection tube. Hold swab in one hand and collection tube in the other, being careful not to spill the liquid. Do not drink the liquid.

3. Insert the tip of the swab into one nostril. The swab does not need to be inserted far – insert just until the tip of the swab is no longer visible. Rotate the swab in a circle around the entire inside edge of the nostril at least 3 times.

4. Take the swab out of the nostril. Using the same end of the swab, repeat step 3 in the other nostril.

5. Remove the swab from the second nostril and place in the collection tube. The end of the swab that went into the nose should be placed into the tube first so that it sits down in the liquid. Screw the top of the collection tube back on.

6. Write your full name and date of birth on the tube. Place the sample along with your lab order in the bag provided. Return to LabCorp or your healthcare provider as directed.

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