

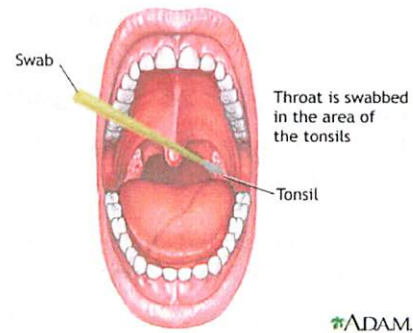
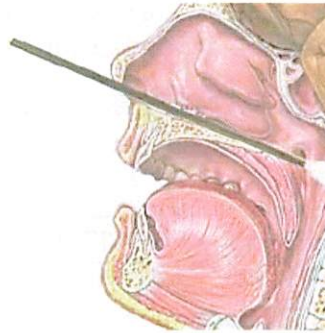


COVID-19 SPECIMEN COLLECTION AND TRANSPORT PROTOCOL



A sterile swab is passed gently through the nostril and into the nasopharynx

ADAM.



Swab

Throat is swabbed in the area of the tonsils

Tonsil

ADAM.

NASOPHARYNGEAL, OROPHARYNGEAL, AND NARES SWAB PROCEDURE

COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS:

Nasopharyngeal Procedure:

1. Have the patient blow his/her nose into a tissue to clear excess secretions from the nasal passages.
2. Tilt the patients head back slightly so that the nasal passages become more accessible.
3. Instruct the patient to close their eyes to lessen the mild discomfort of the procedure.
4. Gently insert the swab along the nasal septum just above the floor of the nasal passage until resistance is felt or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient. The swab should be inserted parallel to the palate (not upwards).
5. Rotate the swab gently against the nasopharyngeal mucosa for 10-15 seconds to absorb secretions.
6. Gently remove the swab while continuing to rotate and place it into its container (break off top of swab), following the visual instructions on the swab kit.

Oropharyngeal Procedure:

1. Have patient open mouth.
2. Insert swab into the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas.
3. Rub swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx.
4. Avoid touching tongue, teeth and gums.
5. Gently remove the swab and place it into its container, following the visual instructions on the swab kit.

Nares/Nasal Procedure: (A nasal specimen may be collected if it is not practical to collect a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal specimen).

1. Tilt the patients head back 70 degrees.
2. While gently rotating the swab, insert the swab less than one inch into nostril (until resistance is met at turbinate).
3. Rotate the swab several times against nasal wall. Repeat in other nostril using the same swab.
4. Gently remove the swab and place it into its container (breakoff top of swab at the score line), following the visual instructions on the swab kit.

TRANSPORT INSTRUCTIONS:

The swab should be place in the **Aptima® Multi test swab kit** immediately after collection. Specimen should be sent at room temperature. Make sure specimen is closed correctly. **Label** with patient name and DOB. **Place** in specimen bag and seal it properly. **Insert** the requisition and insurance information into the back pocket of the bag.

PLEASE place specimen into a second bag for extra precautions and label with "**COVID-19.**" Contact PRL at **210-892-3700, Press "0"** and specify it is a **COVID-19 specimen**. Courier will be by to pick up. **PLEASE** make sure to keep these specimens separate from your regular specimens. Refer to the most current CDC guidelines for further information on collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>



COVID-19 SARS-CoV-2 Test Update

Our goal is to enhance your practice by providing accurate and relevant diagnoses,
and to become a valuable part of your team

Pathology Reference Laboratory is continuing to support our community by bringing in available testing for COVID-19. Our laboratory has validated a PCR test for the specific detection of the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Patients who suspect they have COVID-19 symptoms should consult their doctor. Decisions on which patients receive testing should be based on the local epidemiology of COVID-19, as well as the clinical course of illness. Please refer to the most current CDC guidelines for further information.

Pathology Reference Laboratory will not collect specimens from patients at our facility. However, we will provide specimen collection devices for our healthcare providers to collect in their facility and arrange for specimen pick up and in-house testing.

COVID-19 TESTING	
TEST INFORMATION	<p>Please fill out requisition/order for PRL by including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patient Information (i.e. physical address, phone number, insurance)• Test Code: 20212• Test Name: SARS-CoV-2 by TMA (COVID-19)• CPT: U0003
SPECIMEN COLLECTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collection method should follow appropriate infection control precautions• Collect a NARES, Nasopharyngeal, and/or Oropharyngeal sample with an Aptima® Multi test swab kit• Be sure to label collection device with two patient identifiers (ex. Patient name and DOB)• Current guidelines for COVID-19 infection control precautions can be found at the CDC's website: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html
SPECIMEN TRANSPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify as COVID-19, place in separate transport bag labeled "COVID-19" provided by PRL• Send at room temperature• Keep swabs separated from other specimens• Call PRL at (210) 892-3700 for pickup and Press "0" (specify for COVID-19 specimens)• PRL Couriers will pick-up
TURNAROUND TIME	24 hr. turn-around time from time of receipt
COST	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accept all insurances; in network with majority• Client pricing available upon request

PRL will report positive COVID-19 results to the appropriate public health agencies. Health care providers may also be required to report positive patients to appropriate public health agencies.