

COLLECTION OF UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT SPECIMENS: OROPHARYNGEAL (OP) AND NASOPHARYNGEAL (NP) SWABS

OPTIMAL TIMING. Specimens should be collected within 3 days of symptom onset and no later than 7 days from all patients meeting the case definition identified during the outbreak, ideally prior to the initiation of antimicrobial chemoprophylaxis or therapy.

SWAB TYPES. Use only sterile dacron or rayon swabs with plastic shafts or if available, flocked swabs. DO NOT use calcium alginate swabs or swabs with wooden sticks, as they may contain substances that inactivate some viruses and inhibit some molecular assays.

COLLECTING THE OP SWAB. Insert swab into the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas. Rub swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx and avoid touching the tongue, teeth, and gums.

COLLECTING THE NP SWAB. Insert flexible wire shaft swab through the nares parallel to the palate (not upwards) until resistance is encountered or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient indicating contact with the nasopharynx. Gently, rub and roll the swab. Leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions before removing.

SPECIMEN HANDLING. Place NP and OP swabs immediately into a sterile vial containing 2 ml of viral transport media without antibiotics. Both swabs can be placed in the same vial, if desired. Aseptically, cut or break applicator sticks off near the tip to permit tightening of the cap. Label the vial with the patient's name, ID number, specimen type, and date collected.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Specimens must be shipped at ambient temperature Monday-Friday and received at NTD Eurofins within 1 day of collection.

Turnaround time is 2-3 days from sample receipt at NTD Eurofins laboratory

All specimens must be labeled with 2 unique patient identifiers (patient's name and date of birth or name and MRN). A test requisition form must accompany each specimen. Friday shipments must be labeled for Saturday delivery.

Ship specimens FedEx
Priority Overnight® to: Eurofins NTD, LLC.
80 Ruland Road, Suite 1
Melville, NY 11747

For more information about **Coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 RT-PCR**, or to order test supplies, please contact your Genetics Account Executive, or call us at 1-888-NTD-LABS (683-5227).

Please visit the following website to view complete sample collection instructions:
<https://www.cdc.gov/urdo/downloads/SpecCollectionGuidelines.pdf>