



PROVINCIAL PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY NETWORK

Dr. LA Miller Centre, 100 Forest Road, St. John's, NL A1A 3Z9

(709) 777-6583

www.publichealthlab.ca

COLLECTION INSTRUCTIONS USING ALTERNATE COLLECTION SWABS TO SAMPLE THE NOSE/NASOPHARYNX FOR COVID-19

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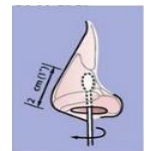
During the current limited supply of nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs and universal transport media, the PHML have validated other swabs and collection containers.

These alternate swabs are thicker than NP swabs and as such CANNOT be inserted into the Nasopharynx and are ONLY to be used to sample the back of the throat and the nasal cavity.

| Specimen Collection Kits | Catalogue | Comments |
|---|-------------|---|
| BD Universal Viral Transport | 220531 | |
| Roche cobas PCR Media Dual Swab Sample Packet GC/Ct testing | 07958021190 | Same kits for GC/Ct testing |
| Copan (Micronostyx) Eswab | CA 480C-ST | Same kits for sampling other body sites (i.e. throats, ulcers etc.) |

The following instructions are suggested for Healthcare Workers (HCW) sampling patients for COVID-19 testing:

1. Explain the procedure to the patient.
2. When collecting the specimen, wear eye protection, gloves, and a mask. Change gloves and wash your hands between each patient. Partially open the swab package and remove the swab. Do not touch the soft tip or lay the swab down. Have the patient tilt their head backwards, open their mouth, and stick out their tongue. Use a tongue depressor to hold the tongue in place.
3. Hold the swab, placing the thumb and forefinger in the middle of the shaft covering the black score line. Do not hold the shaft below the score line.
4. Without touching the sides of the mouth, use the swab to swab the posterior nasopharynx and the tonsillar arches. Using the same swab ask the patient to tilt his/her head back. Insert the swab approximately **1-2 cm into each nostril**. Rotate the swab inside of the nostril for 3 seconds, covering all surfaces. (see diagram)
5. While holding the swab in your hand, unscrew the tube cap (foil top). Do not spill the tube contents. Immediately place the swab into the transport tube so the score line with the top edge of the tube and carefully break the shaft. The swab will drop to the bottom of the vial.
6. Discard the top portion of the shaft. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube.
7. Refrigerate immediately.
10. Attach completed requisition and *transport to the PHML without delay*.



MAKE SURE THE TUBE AND REQUISITION FORM INCLUDE NECESSARY DETAILS INCLUDING:

- Patient's legal name and date of birth **and** MCP
- Date and time of collection
- Requesting Physicians or Clinic Name
- **Note: If the specimen and requisition are not labelled correctly, the specimen will NOT be processed**

