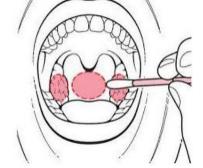


Leaders in Laboratory Medicine

Throat collection instructions for COVID-19

- 1. Throat swabs will have a shaft with a continuous thickness. Nasopharyngeal (NP) swabs have a narrower flexible end and the swab head is smaller than the throat swab. The collection kits include a NP and throat swab with universal transport media.
- 2. Store collection kit at room temperature.
- **3.** Fill out the requisition provided for COVID-19 and label the tube with:
 - Name and date of birth
 - Unique identifiers (MRN or Alberta Health Care Number)
 - Time of collection
 - Site of collection (throat)
 - Include ordering provider (designated medical officer of health or other physician) on the requisition
 - If using a printed label make sure the label is properly affixed to the tube
- 4. Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as per protocol for collection of COVID-19 samples.
- **5.** Explain procedure to the patient.
- **6.** Collect throat swab. VIGOROUSLY swab the areas highlighted in the figure. Swabbing may activate the gag reflex.
- **7.** While holding the swab in your hand, unscrew the tube cap. Do not spill the tube contents.
 - Break the shaft by bending it over the edge of the tube opening multiple times.



- 8. Discard the top portion of the shaft. Tightly screw the cap onto the tube. Leaking specimens will be rejected by the laboratory.
- **9.** Place tube in transport bag. Place requisition in pouch outside of the bag.
- **10.** Refrigerate tubes or store on ice if possible. If no refrigeration available, store at room temperature and ship to the lab within 48 hours.

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