
Specimen Collection for Suspected COVID-19 Patient

- I. Applicable patients – Patients who have received a referral or order from a clinician (primary care, local health department, medical control physician) for specimen collection while under quarantine or isolation.
- II. Collection Procedure
 - A. Don appropriate PPE
 - i. N95 Mask
 - ii. Gown
 - iii. Gloves
 - iv. Eye protection
 - B. Place patient in seated position
 - C. Tilt patient’s head back slightly to visualize nasal passages
 - D. Gently insert swab along septum floor
 - i. Stop when resistance is met
 - ii. Do not force swab further
 - E. Rotate swab several times (keep in passage 10 seconds)
 - F. Gently remove swab
 - G. Place swab into collection tube according to directions
 - i. Place swab into tube before breaking stick
 - ii. Tighten cap securely
- III. Packaging procedure
 - A. Label tube
 - i. Patient name
 - ii. Patient DOB
 - iii. Source
 - B. Place tube in plastic bag with absorbent material
 - C. Place sample in 95kPa bag
 - D. Place bagged sample on ice pack
 - E. Follow instructions according to referral source or ordering physician for shipping or delivery.
- IV. Key Information
 - A. Uncomfortable procedure, be gentle with patient
 - B. Questions or issues with packaging should be handled by referral source, according to directions on collection materials provided