

SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCESS

When collecting [diagnostic respiratory specimens](#) (e.g., nasopharyngeal or nasal swab) from a patient with possible SARS-CoV-2 infection, the following should occur:

- Specimen collection should be performed in a normal examination room with the door closed or preferably in an outdoor environment.
- Health care providers in contact with known or suspected COVID 19 individual should wear an N95 or equivalent or higher-level respirator (or facemask if a respirator is not available), eye protection, gloves, and a gown.
 - During a shortage of N95s, the use of surgical masks may be considered after assessing the procedure or activity being performed and length of time of contact an individual to determine exposure risk level. N95s (or higher level of protection) should always be worn for high risk procedures. Selection of other Personal Protective Equipment should be based on OSHA Guidelines for PPE selection.
 - If respirators are not readily available, they should be prioritized for other procedures at higher risk for producing infectious aerosols (e.g., intubation), instead of for collecting diagnostic respiratory specimens.
- Nonessential persons should not be present for specimen collection. The specimen collection environment should not be in a public location.
- Clean and disinfect procedure room surfaces or specimen collection area.
- Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>

Oral Pharyngeal Sample Collection

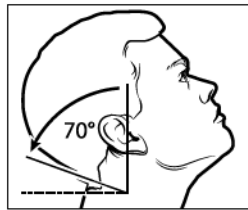
- Complete the verification steps: name and birthdate.
- Have patient open their mouth and tip their head back, stick out their tongue and say "Ahhhhh."
- Use a tongue depressor to help lower the tongue.
- As you enter with the sterile swab, avoid touching the teeth, tongue or roof of mouth.
- Go on either side of the tonsils and swab and then go to the back of the throat, pharynx, and make a letter Z or W to collect a broad area swab.
- Place the swab in the test tube, and break off at the notch, and close the cap.



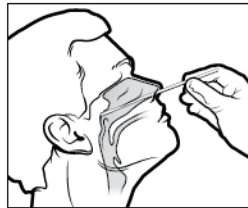
SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCESS

Nasopharyngeal Sample Collection

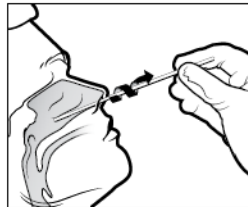
- Complete the verification steps: name and birthdate.
- Have patient tip their head back, preferably against a wall.
- Insert swab straight back towards the ear.
- If resistance is met, try the other nostril.
- Once swab is inserted count to five, rotate swab, count to five again, and then twist swab as exiting the nostril.
- Go on either side of the tonsils and swab and then go to the back of the throat, pharynx, and make a letter Z or W to collect a broad area swab.
- Place the swab in the test tube, and break off at the notch, and close the cap.



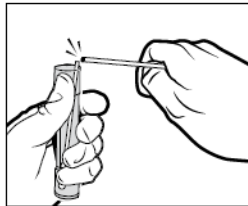
1 Tilt patient's head back 70 degrees.



2 Insert swab into nostril. (Swab should reach depth equal to distance from nostrils to outer opening of the ear.) Leave swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions.



3 Slowly remove swab while rotating it. (Swab both nostrils with same swab.)



4 Place tip of swab into sterile viral transport media tube and snap/cut off the applicator stick.