

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Collection & Shipping Instructions

All testing for SARS-CoV-2 should be conducted in consultation with a healthcare provider. The guidance below addresses collection of a nasopharyngeal specimen once a clinical determination has been made to pursue SARS-CoV-2 testing. *(The CDC PUI & Case Report Form is required for specimen submission.)*

BIOTAP Medical's collection kit is comprised of:

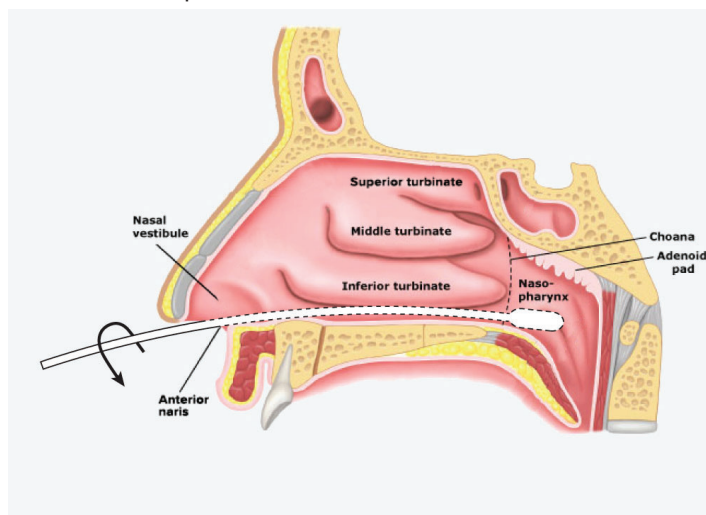
- Flexible nasopharyngeal swab
- Sterile transport tube containing viral transport media (VTM) or sterile saline

Patient Preparation

- Briefly explain the nasopharyngeal collection process to the patient. Let them know you will be inserting a swab through their nose first and then gently pushing it to the back of their throat where you will rotate it for a few seconds to collect any virus in that area. Let the patient know that “the collection will be uncomfortable, but not painful” since the tissue being sampled is fairly sensitive and is rarely touched. The swabbing may cause the patient to want to sneeze or cough or may cause their nose to start running.
- Provide a tissue to the patient and ask them to gently clear any mucous from their nose. Prior to swabbing, ensure there is no visible mucous in the nasal vestibule. (The virus is not found in the mucous, only the tissue lining the surface of the inner nose. Mucous collected on the swab may interfere with testing.)
- Ask the patient to sit upright (60-90°) preferably with the back of their head supported. (If there is no head support available, you may want an associate's assistance supporting the patient's head as the natural inclination is to pull away during an uncomfortable procedure.)

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Specimen Collection

1. After washing hands, put on clean gloves and other necessary personal protective equipment (PPE)
2. Label tube with patient name, birth date, date of collection and collector's initials. Place the tube in a rack.
3. Loosen the cap from the transport tube (so that you are able to easily remove it with one hand in step #9.)
4. Peel open the sterile swab pouch at the correct end indicated by the arrows on the outside of the package
5. Remove the swab. NOTE: Be sure not to touch the handle below the score mark during the collection process.



6. Ask the patient to tilt back their head slightly. You might also gently press and hold the tip of the patient's nose tilting their head back so as to create a straighter path for the swab to reach the nasopharynx. If no head support is available, ask an associate to assist.
7. Insert the swab slowly and steadily along the floor of the nose parallel to the palette (straight back, not up the nose) until the posterior nasopharynx is reached (resistance is met).
8. Rotate the swab for several seconds and then withdraw the swab.
9. While holding the swab in one hand, gently remove the tube cap with the other hand and immediately place the swab into the tube, swab-tip down.

10. Snap off the end of the handle where scored. Be sure not to touch the handle below that mark. Discard this portion of the handle.
11. Immediately place the cap securely onto the transport tube containing the swab.*
12. Refrigerate the tube at 2-8° C (35.6-46.4° F) until ready to ship.

** Note: Do not use parafilm or any other wrap in an attempt to prevent the tube contents from potentially leaking. This has caused known issues during transport to the lab and may prevent the specimen from being tested.*

Shipping Samples to BIOTAP Medical

Every effort should be made to ship samples to BIOTAP Medical on the day they are collected.

1. Gather required transport tube(s) from refrigerator and accompanying paperwork. Make sure the patient identifiers on the transport tube match the patient information on the requisition.
2. Place the transport tube into the provided biohazard bag and seal.
3. Place the matching paperwork in the outside pocket of the biohazard bag.
4. Place all properly bagged samples into a UPS Laboratory Pak (with blue stripes) along with 2-3 ice packs. (Add more ice packs if sending multiple samples or if high outdoor temperatures are expected).
5. Place the UPS Pak into the provided UPS Laboratory Box (also with blue stripes) and affix the Category B UPS Air bill. NOTE: These particular UPS Paks, boxes and air bills must be used to transport SARS-CoV-2 samples.



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