

# SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Testing

## Anterior Nares (NS) Collection & Shipping Instructions



All testing for SARS-CoV-2 should be conducted in consultation with a healthcare provider. The guidance below addresses collection of an anterior nares 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.)*

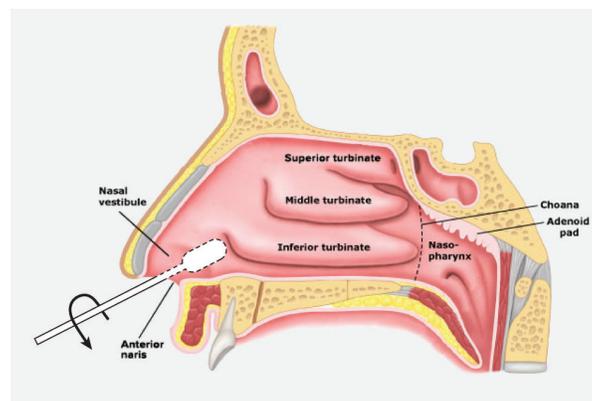
BIOTAP Medical's collection kit is comprised of:

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

### Anterior Nares (AS) Specimen Collection

*Prior to swabbing, provide a tissue to the patient and ask them to gently clear any mucous from their nose. Ensure there is no visible mucous in the nasal vestibule. (Mucous collected on the swab may interfere with testing.)*

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. Insert the swab approximately 2 centimeters (appx.  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch) into the naris.
7. Rotate the swab against mucous membrane in the nasal vestibule for 3 seconds.
8. Using the same swab, repeat for other naris.
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.

