

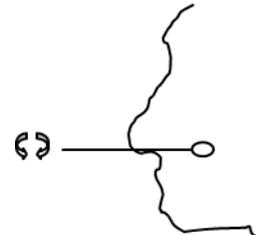
28 May 2020

COVID-19 TESTING

Specimen requirement: One Nasopharyngeal swab

NASOPHARYNGEAL SWAB COLLECTION

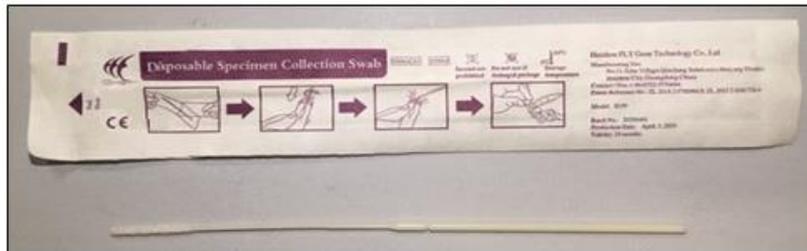
- Wear PPE: mask, gloves, eye protection, gown
- Rest back of patient's head against wall (or car headrest)
- Insert swab 4-5 cm into nose in horizontal direction.
- Rotate swab 3 x each way



COVID-19 swab packs

- Each pack contains one swab and one tube
- Swab is **flexible**
- Tube contains **virus transport medium** (VTM or VTF)

Actual swabs/tubes may vary slightly from those pictured



- There is no need to double bag COVID-19 specimens
- COVID-19 swabs must be bagged separately from other laboratory specimens such as bloods and other swabs, and have a separate laboratory request form
- COVID-19 swabs will routinely be tested for SARS-CoV-2 virus only
- Normal courier services apply

Laboratory Update

To: GPs
From: Waikato DHB Laboratories, Pathlab
Date: 28/05/2020

Subject: Respiratory swab requirements

If a patient requires multiple respiratory examinations, **a separate swab and request form is required for each.**

Each swab/request form must be individually bagged as some testing is done at Waikato Hospital Laboratory and some testing is done at Pathlab.

COVID-19 samples no longer need to be double bagged but please ensure sample lids are done up securely.

Test	Requirement	Notes
COVID-19	Nasopharyngeal swab	Separate request form Send sample/form in own bag Label bag appropriately: COVID-19
Respiratory Viral PCR (e.g. Influenza)	Nasopharyngeal swab	Separate request form Send sample/form in own bag
Throat swab for MC&S (e.g. Rheumatic Fever screen, Group A strep)	Throat swab	Separate request form Send sample/form in own bag