

Accepted Specimen Types

- Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swabs
- Nasal (Anterior Nasal) Swabs*
- Oropharyngeal (OP) Swabs*

Use only synthetic tip, and plastic (or aluminum) shaft swabs.

**Cannot be used to collect Flu A/B RSV A/B Panel or Comprehensive Respiratory Pathogen Panel.*

How to Collect Nasopharyngeal Samples

- Insert swab through the nares parallel to the palate.
- Do this until there is resistance, or the distance is equivalent to that from the ear to the nostril of the patient indicating contact with the nasopharynx.
- Gently, rub and roll the swab. Leave the swab in place for several seconds to absorb secretions before removing.
- Place swabs immediately into a sterile vial containing viral transport media.
- Label the vial with the patient's information
 - 2 unique identifiers must match the requisition form.
- Refrigerate sample until it is ready to ship.

How to Collect Nasal (Anterior Nasal) Samples

- Using a flocked or spun polyester swab, insert the swab at least 1 cm (0.5 inch) inside the nostril (naris) and firmly sample the nasal membrane by rotating the swab and leaving in place for 10 to 15 seconds.
- Sample both nostrils with same swab.

How to Collect Oropharyngeal Samples

- Insert the swab into the posterior pharynx and tonsillar areas.
- Rub swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx. Avoid touching the tongue, teeth, and gums.
- Place swabs immediately into a sterile vial containing viral transport media.
- Label the vial with the patients' information.
- Refrigerate sample until it is ready to ship.

Shipping Instructions

- Place sample in an insulated mailer with cold packs.
- Multiple samples can be shipped in one mailer but must be individually packaged.
- Outer package must be rigid container with UN3373 label.

Sample may be rejected for following reasons:

- Samples missing a swab in their transport tube.
- Samples that are broken or leaked in transit.
- Improperly collected samples.
- Missing or illegible unique patient identifiers (2).
- Improperly labeled samples (wrong device or media).
- QNS samples with < 0.2mL of media - 0.5mL minimum.
- Visibly contaminated samples.

