

Specimen Collection and Transport for SARS-CoV-2 Aptima

Nasopharyngeal Swab Specimens

1. Use swab with polyester, rayon, or nylon tip and flexible shaft to collect a nasopharyngeal specimen.
2. Insert swab into nostril parallel to the palate until it reaches the nasopharynx, leave in place for several seconds, then slowly rotate the swab as it is being withdrawn.
3. Unscrew cap from Viral Transport Medium tube, place swab into tube, break swab shaft so it fits inside the tube, and tightly screw on cap
4. Label specimen, complete laboratory requisition form, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible. *

Nasal Swab Specimens

1. Use swab with polyester, rayon, or nylon tip and plastic shaft to collect a nasal specimen.
2. Insert swab into nostril until resistance is met at the level of the turbinates (less than one inch into the nostril). Rotate swab a few times against the nasal wall and remove. Using the same swab, repeat in the other nostril.
3. Unscrew cap from Viral Transport Medium tube, place swab into tube, break swab shaft so it fits inside the tube, and tightly screw on cap.
4. Label specimen, complete laboratory requisition form, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible. *

Oropharyngeal Swab Specimens

1. Use swab with polyester, rayon, or nylon tip and plastic shaft to collect oropharyngeal specimen.
2. Insert swab into throat ensuring contact with bilateral tonsils and posterior pharyngeal wall and then withdraw.
3. Unscrew cap from Viral Transport Medium tube, place swab into tube, break swab shaft so it fits inside the tube, and tightly screw on cap.
4. Label specimen, complete laboratory requisition form, and transport to the laboratory as soon as possible. *

*Specimens in Viral Transport Medium can be stored in the refrigerator for up to 96 hours before testing.