

Laboratory Services Division

1600 N Michigan Ave Room 102

Saginaw, MI 48602

989.758.3825Voice

Specimen (Nasal) Collection for Covid-19 Testing

- A. Wash your hands with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use hand sanitizer.
- B. Complete the test requisition form and include all information. Please print legibly using ink. If you have questions about your agency's name or method delivery, please call 989 758.3825.
- C. Specimen Collection:
 1. For this collection procedure, the preferred type of specimen is a nasal swab.
 2. Remove the swab from the package. Do not touch the soft end with your hands or anything else.
 3. Insert the entire soft end of the swab into your nostril **no more than ¼ of an inch** into your nose. You should feel a little pressure and you may have the sensation of having to sneeze or your eyes will start to water. See figure one.
 4. Slowly rotate the swab, gently pressing against the inside of your nostril at 4 time for a total of 15 seconds.
 5. Gently remove the swab
 6. Using the same swab, repeat steps 3 – 5 in your other nostril.

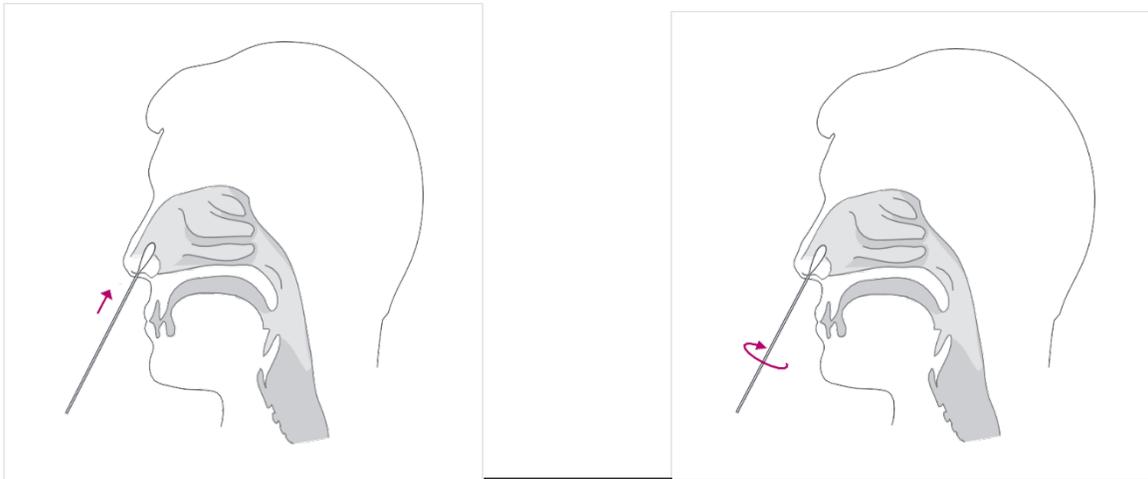


Figure 1

- D. Preparing the swab for transport to the Lab:
 1. Once the specimen has been collected place the swab into the tube that was given to you with the kit. There are 2 different collection kits that you may have. One has a liquid in the tube, this is called viral transport media (VTM), the other is a dry swab and is placed in a conical tube.
 2. Break of the swab shaft by bending back and forth several time. Please do not bend over into the tube.
 3. Tightly screw the cap back onto the tube. Label the tube with the client's first and last name. Optional is to include the date of birth.

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4. Place the labeled specimen tube and the completed test requestion into the small clear zip lock bag, which was included in the kit. Using the zip style closure, seal the bag.
5. Transport to the laboratory as soon as possible. Stability times are:
 - i. For dry swab, the sample must be transported immediately and arrive to the laboratory within one hour of collection.
 - ii. For VTM samples:
 1. Place collected specimens in a refrigerator (2 - 8°C).
 2. Samples must arrive in the laboratory no later than 60 hours after collection.
 3. If specimens cannot be delivered to the laboratory within that time frame, please contact the laboratory for special arrangements.

The laboratory is located at:
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Saginaw, MI 48602

- E. The specimen will be rejected if:
1. If an unapproved swab was used to collect the sample (one that was not given to you with the kit).
 2. If specimen is too old.
 3. When using VTM, if the specimen is leaking.
 4. If the specimen tube is not labeled
- F. When a specimen is rejected, the reason will be stated on the report form.

References:

- A. CDC, 2021. How to Collect an Anterior Nasal Swab Specimen for COVID-19 Testing.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/testing/How-To-Collect-Anterior-Nasal-Specimen-for-COVID-19.pdf>
- B. 2020 Abbott, Tech Tips, Collection of a Nasal Swab.