COVID-19: Sample collection procedure

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COVID 19 Testing
Swabbing Preparation
Clarify if Swabs are Going to QUEST or to IDPH Lab Locations

COVID-19 specimen collection guidelines
Quest specimen requirements and acceptable supplies for SARS-CoV-RNA (COVID-19), Qualitative NAAT (test code 39448)

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Laboratories
2121 W. Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612
312-793-4760

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Laboratories
825 N. Rutledge Street
Springfield, IL 62702
217-782-6562

Illinois Department of Public Health
Division of Laboratories
1155 South Oakland Avenue
Carbondale, IL 62901
618-457-5131
Swabbing Preparation:
Team approach

- Nurses
- Recorder
Swabbing
Preparation: Set Up Cart

A cart to transport specimen collection supplies (one cart per team):
- One trash bag/cart
- Recommended PPE (e.g., gown, gloves, mask, eye protection)
- Alcohol based hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes effective against SARS-CoV-2
- Testing supplies

A staging room (e.g., conference room) to convene before and after specimen collection
A separate area or room where staff can be tested
CDC Isolation Precautions Guidelines

- Do Not require or recommend for patients/residents on any precaution category
  - No special bag or process for linen
  - No double bagging trash or linen unless bag torn or soiled
  - No red bag collection of regular waste (includes non-bloody isolation trash)
  - No double gloving
  - No disposable dishes

Slide Source: Karen K. Hoffmann, RN, MS, CIC
COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
for Healthcare Personnel

Preferred PPE – Use **N95 or Higher Respirator**

- Face shield or goggles
- N95 or higher respirator
- When respirators are not available, use the best available alternative, like a facemask.
- One pair of clean, non-sterile gloves
- Isolation gown

Acceptable Alternative PPE – Use **Facemask**

- Face shield or goggles
- Facemask
- N95 or higher respirators are preferred but facemasks are an acceptable alternative.
- One pair of clean, non-sterile gloves
- Isolation gown

[Sources: CDC, IDPH]
Wonder Why there are Issues with Control?
Swabbing Steps

1-2

1. Explain the procedure to the patient (Nasopharyngeal or Nasal swab)
2. Assemble swabs, PPE, hand sanitizer
Swabbing Step 3

3. Recorder completes all paperwork and double checks.

If you are sampling numerous patients from the same facility
- enter many of the common data elements electronically
- print multiple copies of the submission form.

Saves time

Only need to complete patient specific information on the lab submission form if you make copies that have much of the information completed in advance.
Test Requisition Form

• Must be submitted with each sample.
• Each lab has its own test requisition form. Contact the lab that will be doing your testing for the form.
• Following are examples from the IDPH Lab and Quest.
If using the IDPH Laboratory, the form is available at: [http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/idph-covid-laboratory-test-requisition20200521.pdf](http://dph.illinois.gov/sites/default/files/forms/idph-covid-laboratory-test-requisition20200521.pdf).
COVID-19
Laboratory Test Requisition

Type or use indelible dark ink and print legibly with capital letters. Outbreak #.

SUBMITTER INFORMATION: Long Term Care Facility
123 Maple St. Springfield IL 62704
Dr. James Smith 217-555-1234 217-555-5678 LTCF@yahoo.com

PATIENT INFORMATION:

Specimen John M

24b Douglas St. Springfield IL 62704
217-555-4321 09/27/1968 51

Sex Male Race White

Ethnicity Non-Hispanic

Patient ID # (optional) 12437

INSURANCE INFO

Recipient ID # 12345 Insurance Company Health Insurance Inc.
Group/Poly # 94678 Social Security Number 123-45-6789
Policy Holder Last Name Specimen Policy Holder First Name John

Eligibility Begin Date 4-27-2018 Eligibility End Date 4-27-2021

TEST REQUEST INFORMATION
When testing ends and decontamination begins, notify specimens, use Bio Swab test. Complete collection information immediately before first specimen and complete collection information for coronavirus specimens in the "BioSwab" box on the test.

TEST

05/28/2020 3:15 p.m. 05/28/2020 Date Collected (mm/dd/yyyy)

05/26/2020

TEST SOURCE/SPECIMEN TYPE (one source type per form)

COVID-19

- Nasal Swab
- Throat Swab
- Blood
- Saliva
- Urine
- Other (Specify Below)
Note: Quest uses an online system for requisitions. This form is for illustrative purposes.
Specimen Labels

• Always label specimens at the time of collection.
• Use a **minimum of two patient identifiers on every specimen** submitted for testing along with Time and Date of Collection. Patient identifiers include Patient Full Legal Name (First and Last) AND Patient Date of Birth (DOB).
• The IDPH Laboratories do not provide labels for the vial. We advise to use the label on the tube (if applicable), chart labels or blank address labels. Other labs may provide labels – check with them to confirm.
• Ensure specimen is properly sealed. Specimen may be sealed with parafilm or tape to ensure no leakage during shipment.
Specimen Label - Example
Swabbing Steps 4-5

4. Perform Hand hygiene
5. Use gown, procedure mask or fit tested N95, face shield or goggles, gloves per facility guidance and risk assessment.
Using PPE

Remember:

• PPE must be donned correctly before entering the patient area (e.g., isolation room, unit if cohorting).

• PPE must remain in place and be worn correctly for the duration of work in potentially contaminated areas. PPE should not be adjusted (e.g., retying gown, adjusting respirator/facemask) during patient care.

• PPE must be removed slowly and deliberately in a sequence that prevents self-contamination. A step-by-step process should be developed and used during training and patient care.
Swabbing Steps 6-7

6. Twist to remove the cap from the viral transport media tube
7. Remove the swab and handle carefully to prevent touching the sterile end of the swab
Step 8: Which Swab?

Sampling Locations: NPS, Nasopharyngeal swab; MTS, midturbinate swab; NS, nasal swab. (From Frazee et al., 2018)
Anterior Nares Swab

Collection instructions: Use a single foam swab for collecting specimens from both nares of a symptomatic patient. Insert foam Swab into 1 nostril straight back (not upwards). Once the swab is in place, rotate it in a circular motion 2 times and keep it in place for 15 seconds. Repeat this step for the second nostril using the same swab. Remove foam swab and insert the swab into an acceptable viral transport medium.
Nasopharyngeal Swab

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOkCVyS8BnQ&feature=youtu.be
Swabbing Steps 9-12

9. Place the swab in the transport media tube
10. Ensure that the swab tip is in the viral transport media
11. Bend/cut/snap the applicator stick as appropriate such that the cap can be secured
12. Secure the cap on the transport tube tightly to prevent leakage
13. Double check name, spelling, and date of birth and place in transport/storage bag with requisition. Place the requisition is the designated pouch.

14. Please ensure the specimen and requisition form are kept together one transport bag.
15. **Samples require refrigeration!**

Store the specimen at 2-8 degrees C. prior to and during shipment to the laboratory.

Please note that all specimens must be received at the lab within 72 hours of collection.

Use frozen ice packs to maintain temperatures during transit. Do not use wet ice.
Remove Gloves and Perform Hand Hygiene
Swabbing Process
Steps 16-17

16. Remove gloves, perform hand hygiene, put on fresh gloves, sanitize pen and surfaces.
17. Courier or ship specimens to the laboratory quickly.
Shipping or Using a Courier

• If shipping, be sure to use overnight shipment.
• For Friday shipments, be sure to designate Saturday delivery or UPS won’t deliver even if shipped overnight.
• The safest bet is to drive the samples to the lab.
• They must be kept cold and received at the lab within 72 hours of collection or they will be unsatisfactory for testing.