

Memo

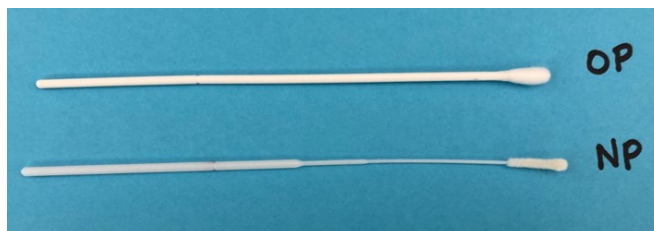
To: Allina Health Laboratory Outreach COVID-19 collecting clients

From: Allina Health Laboratory Outreach services

Date: May 6, 2020

Re: COVID-19 specimen collection changes

Due to continuing nationwide shortage of nasopharyngeal swabs, you may receive collection kits containing an **oropharyngeal (OP) swab** instead of a **nasopharyngeal (NP) swab**. Each supply shipment that you receive will contain all of the same type of swab, but swab types may change from shipment to shipment. Below is an illustration of the different swabs and corresponding instructions are provided.

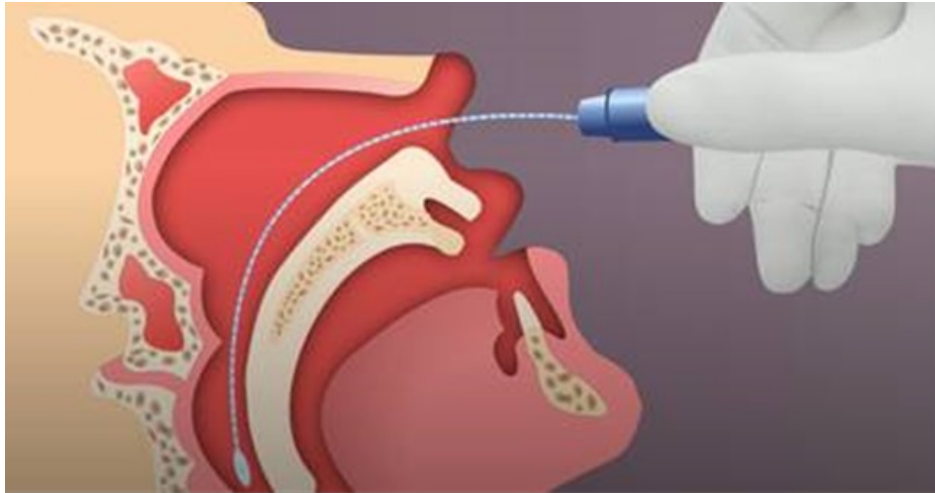


Follow the appropriate set of directions for the swab type in the collection kit.

Nasopharyngeal (NP) Swab Collection

New England Journal of Medicine video on NP swab collection: [Nasopharyngeal Swab Collection Video](#)

1. Use the swab included in the COVID-19 test kit
2. Tip patient's head back
3. Gently insert the swab into the nostril along the septum floor of the nose extending straight back until the posterior nasopharynx is reached (distance from the nostril to the external opening of the ear).
 - a. If any resistance is met in the passageways, do not force the swab. Try the other nostril.
4. Rotate the swab several times while the swab is in contact with the nasopharyngeal wall
5. Remove the swab carefully and place in the transport medium.
6. Snap off the shaft of the swabs at the score line; the shafts will easily break. Make sure the cap is properly seated and does not leak.
7. Label the specimen appropriately. Document the source "NP" on the label.



Oropharyngeal (OP) Swab Collection

1. Ask the patient to tilt head back, open mouth wide, breathe deeply, and say "ah".
2. Extend the swab to the back of the oral cavity, being careful not to touch lips, walls of mouth, uvula, or tongue.
3. Rubbing the swab over both tonsillar pillars and posterior oropharynx. Avoid touching the tongue, teeth, and gums.
4. Place the swab into the provided transport media.
5. Grasp the top of the swab and bend within the media container until the shaft breaks.
6. Break the swab shaft short enough to fit completely into the media container.
7. Cap the media container securely and
8. Label the specimen appropriately. Document the source "OP" on the label.

