

# SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19/FLU



This document lists the approved swabs and transport media. In addition, sputum/tracheal aspirates are available for inpatient testing under specific circumstances. Both Nasal and Nasopharyngeal swabs can be submitted for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients. Self collected nasal swabs are intended for COVID testing only and cannot be used for Flu or RSV testing.

## Transport media

1. Universal transport media
2. Sterile saline (variety of tubes used with white, blue, black or red cap).
3. M4RT
4. eSwab – can only be used for Covid testing at HFH Micro lab. Do not use on Liat instruments.

Flocked, NP or Nasal are the approved swabs. **DO NOT SEND DRY SWABS: SEND SWABS IN SALINE OR TRANSPORT MEDIA**



Copan 3C064N Regular sized flocked swab packaged with 3ml UTM. (Nasal collection)  
PplSoft# 577962 (case of 300)



IPB Inc. SteriFlock NP swab with Teknova Saline Solution  
PplSoft #: 558684  
Mfr Ref# CA33650



Nasal Self-collect kit:  
Young Innovations  
Microbrush Anterior  
Nares Test Swab with  
Teknova Saline Solution  
or M4RT. Instructions  
included.  
PplSoft# 578774  
**FOR COVID ONLY**



iClean Specimen Collection  
Flocked Swab –Nasopharyngeal  
collection (NP swab) or Nasal  
collection (Nasal swab)

ASP Medical Swab  
Nasopharyngeal Use.  
Collect and snap swab into sterile  
saline tube, UTM or M4RT.  
(provided by Supply Chain)



Eswab in 1ml Amies Transport Media –  
Nasal Swab  
4320245 – Specimen Collection Swab  
Flocked  
PplSoft #: 342426  
Mfr. #: 220245 or  
Eswab w/ Flexible Mini-Tip (NP  
collection), Aimes Transport Medium  
Mfr. #: 220532  
Mfr. Name: B.D. Diagnostic Systems  
Collection Source: NASOPHARYNGEAL  
**FOR COVID ONLY AT HFH MICRO LAB**



Swab Multitran Polyester System  
Scored Culture – “Starswab” (blue  
cap)  
4320245 – Specimen Collection Swab  
Flocked  
PplSoft #: 101796  
Mfr. #: S160-100  
Mfr. Name: STARPLEX SCIENTIFIC  
INC.  
Collection Source: Nasal Swab – NOT  
NASOPHARYNGEAL  
**FOR COVID ONLY AT HFH MICRO LAB**



Sterile saline  
tubes – provided  
by HFHS supply  
chain – insert dry  
swabs into either  
of these tubes for  
transport



M4RT  
(Green,  
orange or  
red cap)

| Acceptable Specimen Types |                                      |                                      |                                     |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Test                      | Saline                               | UTM                                  | M4RT                                |
| COVID 19                  | NP/nasal/<br>nasal self-<br>collect* | NP/nasal/<br>nasal self-<br>collect* | NP/nasal/<br>nasal self<br>collect* |
| COVID19 + Flu A/B         | NP/nasal                             | NP/nasal                             | NP/nasal                            |
| RSV Antigen               | NP                                   | NP                                   | NP                                  |
| Resp Viral Panel          |                                      | NP/Sputum/<br>tracheal asp           |                                     |

\*Self collected Nasal swabs are intended for Covid testing only and cannot be used for Flu or RSV testing