

SPECIMEN COLLECTION GUIDELINES FOR COVID-19/FLU



This document lists the approved (preferred and alternative) swabs and transport media. In addition, sputum/tracheal aspirates are available for inpatient testing under specific circumstances. Nasopharyngeal swabs are the preferred collection device for asymptomatic patients. Symptomatic patient collection can utilize either nasal or nasopharyngeal swab.

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 are the approved swabs. **DO NOT SEND DRY SWABS: SEND SWABS IN SALINE OR TRANSPORT MEDIA**



432531A – Universal Swab Collection System Flocked Mini-Tip Universal Transport Medium Sterile 3ml
PplSoft #: 342432
Mfr. #: 220531 (NP collection)
Mfr. Name: B.D. Diagnostics System
or
Copan 306c Regular sized flocked swab packaged with 3ml UTM. (Nasal collection)



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



iClean Specimen Collection Flocked Swab – Nasopharyngeal collection

ASP Medical Swab
Nasopharyngeal Use.

Collect and snap swab into sterile saline tube, 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 Multitrans 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



Polystyrene/Rayon swabs – Nasal swabs
Puritan 6” Sterile Standard Foam Swab w/ Polystyrene Handle
or
Rayon Tip Stuarts Plastic Shaft Single Swab Sterile
PS Number: 233249
Collect and snap swab into sterile saline tube
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

Acceptable Transport Media

	Saline	UTM	M4RT
LIAT Flu A/B	NP	NP	NP
LIAT Flu A/B + COV	NP*	NP*	NP*
RSV Antigen	NP	NP	NP
Resp Viral Panel		NP/Sputum/ tracheal asp	

*COVID/FLU PCR is approved for NP and flocked-nasal. However if ordering RSV they need to submit NP.