

Specimen Collection for Point of Care Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)

Name of Facility/Entity:

Date Implemented: Reviewed By (Name/Title):

Location of Specimen Collection

- **For Residents:** Specimen collection should be performed one at a time in each resident's room with the door closed. An airborne infection isolation room is not required. Ideally for rooms with multiple residents, specimen collection should be performed one individual at a time in a room with the door closed and no other individuals present.¹
- **For Healthcare Personnel (HCP) and Visitors:** Minimize the amount of time the HCP or visitor will spend in the room. HCP or visitors awaiting swabbing should not wait in the room where swabbing is being done. Those swabbed should have a face mask or cloth cover in place for source control throughout the process, only removing it during swabbing. Check boxes that apply.
 - Ideally, specimen collection should be performed one individual at a time in a room with the door closed and no other individuals present.
 - If individual rooms are not available, other options include:
 - Large spaces (e.g., gymnasiums) where sufficient space can be maintained between swabbing stations (e.g., greater than 6 feet apart).
 - An outdoor location, weather permitting, where other individuals will not come near the specimen collection activity.
 - Considerations for multiple HCP or visitors being swabbed in succession in a single room: Use of portable HEPA filters to increase air exchanges and to expedite removing infectious particles.
 - Other: _____
- Minimize the equipment kept in the specimen collection area.¹

Specimen Collection

Proper collection of specimens is the most important step in the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases. A specimen that is not collected correctly may lead to false negative test results.²

- **Self-Collection:** Consider if self-collection is appropriate.
 - Provide instruction on [How to Collect Anterior Nasal Swab](#).² Attach instructions to this protocol.
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use can be minimized through self-collection while HCP remain at least 6 feet away of the individual being swabbed. Use standard precautions, gloves and face mask for source control.
 - The individual must be able to correctly self-swab and place the swab in transport media or sterile transport device and seal *or hand swab to testing personnel*.
 - If the individual needs assistance, assistance can be provided by placing the swab into transport media or a sterile transport device and sealing it for them (if applicable).¹
- **Specimen Collection by HCP**
 - HCP to don PPE per protocol (wear an N95 or higher-level respirator or facemask if a respirator is not available and eye protection (e.g., faceshield), a single pair of gloves and a gown should also be worn for specimen collection or if contact with contaminated surfaces is anticipated. Gloves should be changed and hand hygiene performed between each person being swabbed.¹
 - Obtain patient sample per test package insert. Attach instructions to this protocol.

Clean and disinfect per established protocol.

ICHD 4/7/21

¹ [Performing Facility-wide SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Nursing Homes](#), CDC

² [Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19](#), CDC