

Covid-19 sample collection procedure

This procedure is intended for healthcare professionals taking Covid-19 samples.

During this sampling, a person may cough but this is not considered to generate aerosols.

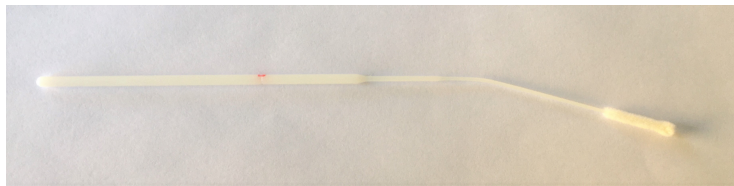
1. Personal protective equipment

- Surgical mask
- Visor
- Gloves

The equipment is not changed between patients and is valid for one shift, with the exception of gloves, which will be removed after each procedure, followed by hand hygiene.

2. Taking of sample

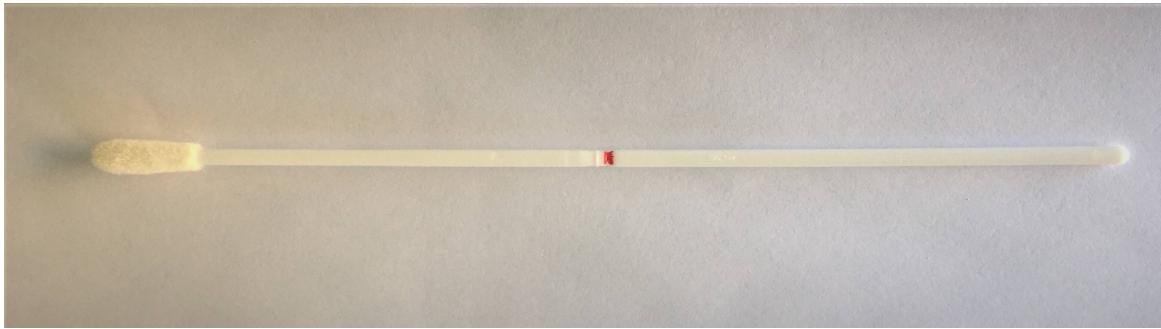
If thin swab: nasopharyngeal swab



- 1) Identify the swab (patient reference and date of collection).
- 2) Inform the patient that this examination may be unpleasant for a short time.
- 3) While lifting the nose, gently push the swab deep into the nostril following the lower part of the nose (down to the nasopharynx: about half the length of the nose to the red snap bar on the thin swab) and detach as many cells as possible by rubbing the inner side of the nostril.
- 4) Place the swab into the tube with the transport medium and break off the end of the stem.



If the swab is thick: oropharyngeal swab combined with a deep nasal swab



NB: The swabs currently available are too thick to take a quality nasopharyngeal swab. An oropharyngeal swab combined with a deep nasal swab is recommended.

- 1) Identify the swab (patient reference and date of collection).
- 2) Inform the patient that this examination may be unpleasant for a short time.
- 3) Start with a swab of the throat:
 - Slightly tilt the patient's head backwards and ask them to take a deep breath.
 - Using a wooden stick, push the tongue down out of the way.
 - Ask the patient to say "Ah" to lift the uvula.
 - Place the swab against the back wall of the throat and gently press it two to three times against the posterior wall of the pharynx, left and right, and purposefully and quickly.
- 4) Insert the same swab into one of the nostrils. When lifting the nose, insert it along the lower part of the nostril until you feel slight resistance or the patient can no longer tolerate it. Turn 3 times.
- 5) Place the swab into the tube with the transport medium and break the end of the stem.



3. Transport to laboratory

- Pack the sample:
 - The tube is wrapped in paper by hand.
 - Then slip it into the first plastic bag (small size) and close it securely.
 - Slip this first sachet into the second large sachet with pouch.
 - Place the request accompanying the sample in the outer pouch of the second bag and affix a red "Covid-19" label to the bag.
- The samples are quickly sent to the laboratory.