



MONTEREY COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY
1270 NATIVIDAD RD, SALINAS, CA 93906
(831) 755-4516

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COLLECTING ANTERIOR NARES SPECIMENS FOR 2019 NOVEL
CORONAVIRUS **UPDATED 10-1-2020**

Specimens may be delivered Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Inadequate or inappropriate specimen collection, storage and transport may yield false test results. Please contact the Senior Public Health Microbiologist at (831)755-4769 if you have any questions regarding specimen collection.

Collection materials needed

1 sterile flocked swab

Note: cotton or calcium alginate swabs are unacceptable

1 tube with viral transport medium (VTM, UTM, CVM, M4, etc.)

1 red biohazard bag

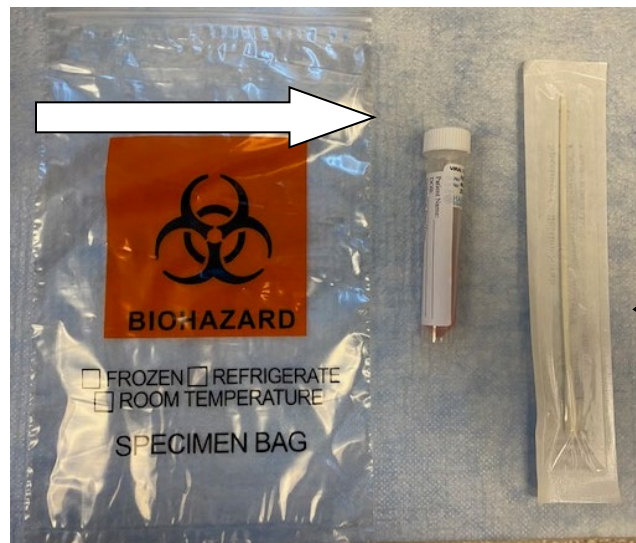
1 MCPHL requisition form

1 COVID-19 Supplemental Lab Form

Instructions

1. Label tube with patient's name, date of birth, specimen type (**AN**), and date of collection.
2. Anterior Nares (AN) specimen collection: gently insert a flocked swab (larger swab, not NP swab) straight back in the nostril. Rotate in circular motion 2 times and keep in place for 15 seconds. Repeat on second nostril using same swab.
3. Place the swab in viral transport media tube. Break the shaft of the swab just below the top of the tube and secure lid of tube. Be sure it is fully closed to avoid leakage.
4. Place the swab in a single tube of **viral transport media (VTM)**. Screw cap on tightly (leaking specimens will be rejected).
5. Place the **tube inside** the biohazard plastic bag. Place the laboratory **requisition** and supplemental form in the sleeve **outside** of the bag.
6. Transport the specimen to the laboratory ASAP. Specimens are stable in the refrigerator (4°C) and should be kept cold during transport. Specimens may be kept at 4°C for up to 72 hours; >72, freeze at minus 70°C. Specimens not meeting these criteria may be rejected.

Virus
transport
media tubes



AN Swab