



## COVID 19 Testing – Update to Anterior Nares Specimen Collection

What: Insertion depth increased to 3 cm and rotation of the swab is increased to 6 times in both directions.



Why: Change in technique will allow for improved sampling of cellular material and reliable testing.

When: 8/11/2020

Who: **Nurses & Trained Medical Assistants/CNAs** Performing COVID 19 Specimen Collection

Where: All COVID 19 Outpatient Testing Sites

## COVID 19 Anterior Nares Specimen Collection Procedure

1. Perform Hand Hygiene & don PPE, according to current guidance from Infection Control.
2. Confirm Order in Epic - COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2)
3. Verify patient identity using 2 patient identifiers.
4. Open specimen collection kit - a single swab should be used to sample both nares.
5. Grasp the swab (above the demarcated line) like a pencil to accommodate any resistance encountered during insertion.
6. Insert the swab at least 3 cm (slightly more than 1 inch) inside the nostril (naris) 
7. Firmly sample the nasal membrane by rotating the swab in a circular motion at least 6 times in both directions; (about 10 to 15 seconds to absorb cellular material). 
8. Repeat the process for the other nostril using the same swab.
9. Place the swab immediately into the sterile viral transport media/sterile saline vial. The shaft of swab can be snapped off at the demarcated line, and the tube should be closed tightly.
10. Label specimen & verify identity using 2 patient identifiers.
11. Doff PPE & perform hand hygiene.

If printed at 100% scale the width of this box should be approximately 3 cm: 

*It is possible that the patient may have an anatomical difference (eg. Deviated septum) that may prevent the swab from being successfully inserted 3 cm into the nostril. Given this possibility, it is critical to swab both nostrils to collect a viable specimen.*

1. Scan the QR Code by opening the camera or reader app on your phone.
2. Face the camera towards the code.
3. Website QR Code will open on your phone.

*No QR Code reader – click on hyperlinked title to get to COVID Learning.*

[COVID 19 Anterior Nares Specimen Collection Video](#)



Questions: [Shannon Wells](#) Nursing Professional Development