


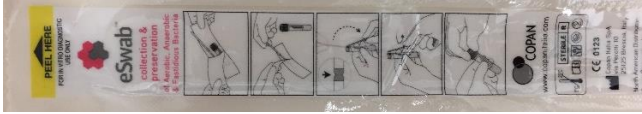





Acceptable Swab Types for COVID Testing

Due to shortages of standard collection kits, available swabs and collection containers vary at patient testing locations. **Do not use swab types other than those indicated below.** No other swab types are acceptable for COVID-19 or other respiratory virus testing at this time. Other acceptable specimen types for COVID-19 and other respiratory virus testing include: nasopharyngeal aspirate, endotracheal aspirate, bronchoalveolar lavage (BAL).

Patient Location	Sampling Site	Acceptable Swabs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospital Inpatients Emergency departments/Urgent Care 	Nasopharynx	<p>NP swab + Universal/Viral Transport Medium (UTM/VTM) or Sterile Saline Note: Throat swabs may also be in circulation and are appropriate for COVID-19 testing</p>  
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Congregate Living Facilities (i.e. long-term care, continuing care, corrections) Other medical facilities based on availability 	Throat*	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Swab™ + eSwab™ Media Note: NP swabs to be distributed when available</p>   </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Throat Swab + Sterile Saline Note: NP swabs to be distributed when available</p>  <p>Note: the throat swab and tube used for the sterile saline transport medium may change depending on available supplies. Regardless of tube appearance, tubes will be labelled as 0.85% saline with an expiration date</p> </div> </div>
Assessment Centres	Throat*	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Hologic Aptima® Multitest Swab Kit</p>  </div> <div style="width: 48%;"> <p>Hologic Aptima® Unisex Swab Kit</p>  </div> </div> <p>Source: Images have been provided courtesy of HOLOGIC, Inc. and affiliates</p> <p>Note: Throat Swabs + Sterile Saline (pictured above) have been distributed to some assessment centres.</p>

*Throat swabs can be used as deep nasal swabs (single swab used to sample both sides) if throat swabs are not possible.

Laboratory Bulletins:

New Collection Kit for COVID-19 and Respiratory Virus Testing (2020-04-29)	Major Changes in COVID-19 Specimen Collection Recommendations (2020-04-11)
Change from Nasopharyngeal to Throat Swab for COVID-19 and RPP Testing (2020-04-15)	Interim Recommendations for COVID-19 Sample Collection (2020-03-19)