

## COVID-19 Laboratory Testing Methods

### Second option now available

Effective immediately, in addition to the COVID-19 RT-PCR, there is now a COVID Rapid COVID-19 Abbott *IDNow* test available. Test selection will be determined and ordered by the patient's provider.

#### COVID-19 RT-PCR (included in the COVID-19 orderset)

- This specimen collection method requires an upper respiratory nasopharyngeal (NP) swab.
- Use the Viral Transport Collection Kit and Media.

Below is a link to a short video demonstrating the correct technique for collecting an NP swab.

[Link to Video](#)

Order

**COVID-19 confirmed positive within past 28 days**

COVID-19 Order Set

COVID-19 RT-PCR (Coronavirus (COVID-19) RT-PCR)

COVID-19. (Isolation - Airborne/Contact (risk of respiratory aerosols HIGH))

COVID-19.. (Isolation - Droplet/Contact (risk of respiratory aerosols LOW))

COVID.. (Rapid COVID-19 Abbott IDNOW)

#### COVID Rapid COVID-19 Abbott *IDNow*

This method requires a foam-tipped swab for nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collection.

##### Swabs:

- Available from your facility's Laboratory Department or Central Supply.
- Swabs are available in ED Omnicells.
- Foamed tipped swabs for the rapid test are in limited supply. There will be one per patient test ordered.
- Specimens collected in viral transport media cannot be used for the rapid test.
- ***This is a single-test methodology. No other orders can be ordered with or added on to the COVID-19 rapid test specimen.***

##### Sending the specimens to the lab:

- After collection, place swab back in paper wrapper.
- Affix patient identification label to outside of paper wrapper. Include collection information.
- Place labeled swab in a biohazard bag and seal well.
- ***Tube or transport specimen to the lab immediately after collection.***

Order

**COVID-19 confirmed positive within past 28 days**

COVID-19 Order Set

COVID-19 RT-PCR (Coronavirus (COVID-19) RT-PCR)

COVID-19. (Isolation - Airborne/Contact (risk of respiratory aerosols HIGH))

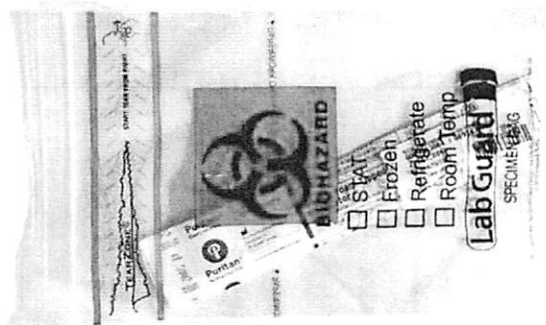
COVID-19.. (Isolation - Droplet/Contact (risk of respiratory aerosols LOW))

COVID.. (Rapid COVID-19 Abbott IDNOW)

**Procedure:**



1. After collection, place swab back into the paper wrapper.
2. Affix patient label to the outside of the paper wrapper.



3. Place labelled swab in a biohazard bag and seal before transport.

NOMs and CANMs, please discuss with your staff at unit meetings and team huddles. Learning Specialists, please post on your units and assign to appropriate team members.

**Note: This updated information replaces the "Specimen Collection for COVID-19 IDNOW COVID-19 Rapid Test" Laboratory Ed Brief previously posted.**

**Reference**

Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens from Persons for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). (2020 March 19).

Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

***For questions, please contact your site Laboratory Department.***