

Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided guidelines for collecting, handling, and testing clinical specimens for coronavirus.

All testing for SARS-CoV-2 should be conducted in consultation with a healthcare provider.

Specimens should be collected as soon as possible once a decision has been made to pursue testing, regardless of the time of symptom onset.





For initial diagnostic testing for SARS-CoV-2, CDC recommends collecting and testing an upper respiratory specimen. The following are acceptable specimens:

- A nasopharyngeal (NP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider
- An oropharyngeal (OP) specimen collected by a healthcare provider
- A nasal mid-turbinate swab collected by a healthcare provider or by a supervised onsite self-collection (using a flocked tapered swab)
- An anterior nares (nasal swab) specimen collected by a healthcare provider or by onsite or home self-collection (using a flocked or spun polyester swab).

Swabs should be placed immediately into a sterile transport tube containing 2-3 mL of either viral transport medium (VTM), Amies transport medium, or sterile saline.

For Thermo Scientific™ sample collection swabs order:

Product #	R12548
Description	Polyester Tipped Swab - 1000/pk
Swab	Oropharyngeal
Breakpoint	No breakpoint
Swab Specs	6" polyester shaft, polyester tipped
Sterile	Yes
Package	Individually wrapped
CE Mark	Yes

References

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/lab/guidelines-clinical-specimens.html>

Need help selecting swabs or selecting media? Contact your local Thermo Fisher Scientific Microbiology sales representative.

