

SmartNotes

Coronavirus:

CDC Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens

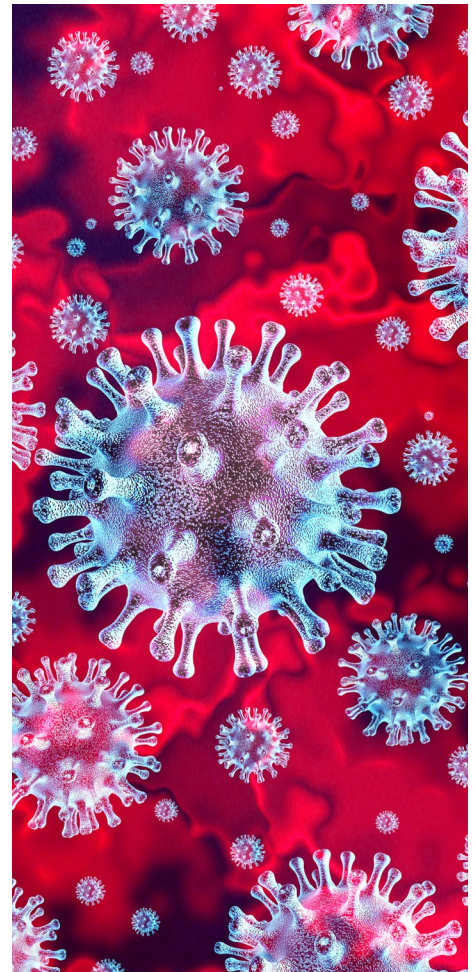
In response to increasing queries regarding viral transport media appropriate for collecting, handling and testing clinical specimens related to coronavirus, we take the opportunity to highlight interim guidelines from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All testing for coronavirus 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. The guidance below addresses options for collection of specimens.






For initial diagnostic testing for coronavirus, CDC recommends¹ 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)
- Nasopharyngeal wash/aspirate or nasal wash/aspirate (NW) specimen collected by a healthcare provider.

Swabs should be placed immediately into a sterile transport tube containing 2-3 mL of either viral transport medium (VTM), saline or liquid amies.¹



Thermo Fisher Scientific™ offer a portfolio of products which includes swabs, transport tubes and media, the following products are applicable to coronavirus sample collection.

Product code	Product	Pack size	
R12548	Polyester Tipped Oropharyngeal Swab	1000/pk	
R12587	M4RT (3 mL) Tube	72/pk	
R12591	M4RT (3 mL) Tube	72/pk	
R064438	Saline 0.85% Solution (2.5 mL)	100/pk	
R064439	Saline 0.85% Solution (3 mL)	100/pk	

References

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

To discuss products further, please contact your local Microbiology sales representative or email microbiology@thermofisher.com for support.

For more information on guidelines, refer to **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** or local authorities.

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